

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN HONOR OF A FALLEN HERO: PO  
2ND CLASS TONY MICHAEL RAN-  
DOLPH—"A MAN ON A MISSION",  
EODT, THE UNITED STATES  
NAVY

**HON. MARKWAYNE MULLIN**

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 22, 2013*

Mr. MULLIN. Mr. Speaker, on this upcoming Memorial Day, I rise to honor an American Hero and a PO 2ND CLASS, Tony Michael Randolph, of Henryetta, Oklahoma. Last year, on July 6th, Tony was killed by a roadside bomb while traveling in a convoy in southern Afghanistan. His Strength in honor would make any American proud! And as a member of Navy's EOD Team, he had one of the most dangerous jobs in the military. He received a Bronze Star with Valor and a Purple Heart. From the early age of 12, he knew he wanted to be in the Military and serve his country. His reputation in High School and in the Military for his selfless and relentless work effort impressed all who had the pleasure to come into contact with him. Our prayers go out to him and his family on this Memorial Day and all of the thousands of families whose pain mounts. It's true, only The Good Die Young! I submit this poem penned in his honor and memory by Albert Caswell.

IN HONOR'S GRACE

In . . .  
In Honor's Grace!  
We now so see your face!  
As high above all others,  
we now you so place!  
All in how you've so lived your life,  
all in your most selfless of all sacrifice!  
As up to Heaven,  
to our Lord Tony you now so rise!  
So rise!  
As this new Angel,  
so takes flight!  
To so watch over us so day and night!  
Day and night!  
As here we so stand,  
with tears all in eyes!  
As our Hero,  
has so died!  
As we so all realize,  
what pain before your family now so lies!  
So lies!  
And that great future before you would have  
so realized!  
But it's far . . . far . . . better,  
to have died for something,  
than to have so lived for nothing at all!  
As it's for you Tony,  
America's son out to you our hearts now so  
call!  
For your fine short life,  
was but like a song up on high!  
NAVY STRONG!  
As A Man On A Mission,  
who to our Lord now so belongs!  
Who'd so cast his light!  
As An Angel In The Army of Our Lord,  
to so watch over us both day and night!  
Day and night!  
And we will hear you on the wind,  
as you take flight!

And we will feel you in the morning,  
as we awake all by our side!  
As you Tony were EOD,  
and as brave and as bold as could be!  
Could be!  
To So Make A Difference With It All!  
Was want you so Tony wanted,  
and what you so saw!  
As you Tony,  
so answered that most noble of all calls!  
That Call To Arms!  
Where only, the most courageous of all  
hearts of honor do so roam!  
Moments,  
are all that we so have!  
To Grab Hearts!  
To Make A Difference With It All!  
To bring our light!  
To evil,  
to so fight!  
Goodness!  
Evil!  
Darkness!  
Light!  
Those Brave Hearts,  
who evil must fight!  
Who bring their light!  
And across Oklahoma on this very night,  
as your love ones so lay their heads down so  
to sleep . . .  
there comes a gentle rain as our Lord so  
weeps!  
Are his tears coming down from Heaven to so  
ease your pain!  
Until, up in Heaven you all so meet once  
again . . .  
And you won't have to cry no more!  
And now,  
as we so lay your fine body down to rest!  
For this our Nation Tony,  
you have so blessed!  
For it's All In Honor's Grace,  
That You Now So Rest!  
So Rest!  
Amen!

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. RICHARD HUDSON**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 22, 2013*

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 164, I was unavoidably detained off of the House floor at a doctor's appointment. Therefore, I was unable to cast my vote on H.R. 1412, the Improving Job Opportunities for Veterans Act of 2013.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yes".

Also on rollcall No. 165, I was unable to cast my vote on H.R. 1344, the Helping Heroes Fly Act.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

And on rollcall No. 166, I was unable to cast my vote on H.R. 3234, the bill to grant the Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the First Special Service Force, in recognition of its superior service during World War II, as amended.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

RAVEN CLEVELAND

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 22, 2013*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Raven Cleveland for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Raven Cleveland is a 10th grader at Jefferson High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Raven Cleveland is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Raven Cleveland for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

HONORING THE REPUBLIC OF  
AZERBAIJAN ON ITS 95TH ANNI-  
VERSARY

**HON. BILL SHUSTER**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 22, 2013*

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the Republic of Azerbaijan in celebration of the 95th anniversary of Republic Day on May 28th.

Azerbaijan and the United States have developed a robust and growing relationship over the last two decades. I am extremely proud that we have established what Secretary Clinton has called "deep, important, and durable bonds between the United States and Azerbaijan."

Although located in a geopolitically tough location between Russia and Iran, Azerbaijan has consistently looked to the United States as an ally despite these difficult neighbors. A secular country with a predominantly Muslim population, Azerbaijan has also been home to vibrant Christian and Jewish communities representing a role model for peaceful coexistence and harmony of different religions and ethnic groups.

Azerbaijan was also the first country to open Caspian energy resources to development by U.S. and European companies and has emerged as a key player for global energy security. The Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan pipeline project, supported by successive U.S. Administrations, is the most successful project contributing to the development of the South Caucasus region. Realization of the Trans Anatolian Pipeline (TANAP) Project between

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

Azerbaijan and Turkey will immensely contribute to energy security in Europe by exporting Azerbaijani natural gas to the European markets.

On a security front, Azerbaijan has been a key ally in a post 9/11 era, emerging as one of the first countries to offer strong support and assistance to the United States. Actively participating in joint operations in both Iraq and Afghanistan, Azerbaijan has also extended important overflight clearances for U.S. and NATO flights and provided key supply routes to Afghanistan by making available its ground and Caspian naval transportation facilities. The transit route through Azerbaijan accounts for roughly 40 percent of the Coalition supplies bound for Afghanistan.

As the Co-Chairman of the Congressional Azerbaijan Caucus, it is my distinct pleasure to honor the Republic of Azerbaijan in celebration of the 95th anniversary of Republic Day and to recognize the valuable bilateral relationship between the United States and Azerbaijan. I also encourage my colleagues who are interested in supporting Azerbaijan to join me as a member of the Congressional Azerbaijan Caucus, a bipartisan group of more than 40 Members of Congress working to help foster the growing partnership between the United States and Azerbaijan and to advance U.S. interests in this pivotal region.

THE GREATEST GIFT IN HONOR OF  
THE FALLEN THIS MEMORIAL  
DAY THE ONES WHO GAVE THAT  
LAST FULL MEASURE

**HON. CORY GARDNER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 22, 2013*

Mr. GARDNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and in gratitude, for all of the fallen and their families this Memorial Day. I submit this poem penned in their honor by Albert Caswell.

THE GREATEST GIFT

The . . .  
The Greatest Gift!  
As such as this,  
is a many splendor thing!  
To lay down ones life,  
is but the brightest of all bright!  
To go off to war,  
all for your Nation . . . to so insure!  
Our freedom to so bring!  
As throughout the years . . .  
As have so come here!  
All of our most precious of all Daughter's  
and Son's,  
who have so persevered!  
With courage clear,  
as the face of death upon them so appeared!  
And for all of their lost loves,  
we now hold so very high above so very dear!  
The ones who so went off to war,  
all for our freedoms to so insure!  
To do what must so be done!  
For these are the ones,  
who so lived and so died and did so not ask  
why!  
As the Angels up in heaven all for them so  
cried!  
And, all of those families who so now live  
without!  
As their pain and their heartache so seems  
to mount!  
Until, up in Heaven again they all so meet  
on this you can count!  
As all of their loved ones tears now so fall to  
the ground!

The Mother's! The Father's! The Sister's!  
The Brother's!

The Son's and The Daughters!  
Who together no longer so remain!  
Who so gave all that they so could!  
But For The Greater Good!  
The Ones Who So Heard The Call!  
The Ones Who So Stood So Very Tall!  
To Do What Must So Be Done!  
On Earth as it is In Heaven,  
In Thy Kingdom Come!  
To take up that flight,  
in The Army of Our Lord to so overcome!  
To so watch over us all day and night!  
And This Is Their Blood,  
that which now so runs!  
And these are the tears,  
that which your families have now so begun!  
And these are all of their dreams that which  
will so never become!

For this is The Day . . .  
that which so all portrays . . .  
America's very heart to so everyone!  
So give thanks,  
to all of those Yanks who lie now deep in the  
cold dark ground!  
On This Memorial Day,  
forget not what they all so gave!  
And the families who with their tears will all  
so pay!  
As on your knees,  
I bid you please to so say a prayer for all of  
these!

Who but with their fine lives so bought us  
peace!  
The ones who so lived and so died,  
while all of their families so cried . . .  
Who so fought all of those Wars which were  
waged!

With but their fine lives that they gave,  
was but the high price of Freedom paid!  
Sadly,  
for any Nation to so live free!

For any Nation to so find her most blessed  
peace!

Her most precious of all Son's and Daugh-  
ters,  
must lay down into the ground so very deep!  
Is but the cruel and high cost of most pre-  
cious liberty!

North, South, West, and so East!  
On This Memorial Day,  
please . . . please . . . Remember All of  
These!

And so say a prayer!  
Amen!

**ROBERTO MAESTAS**

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 22, 2013*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Roberto Maestas for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Roberto Maestas is a 12th grader at Standley Lake High School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Roberto Maestas is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Roberto Maestas for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedi-

cation and character in all of his future accomplishments.

HONORING CHAPLAIN (LT. COL.)

CHARLES CURRIE, RET.

**HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 22, 2013*

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, there are citizens making up this great country who never cease in offering themselves to their communities while improving the quality of our lives. They are the lights of our neighborhoods and families that bring hope long after they are gone. I rise today to celebrate one such glorious light and honor the legacy of Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Charles Currie, Ret.

Chaplain Currie dedicated his life to the calling of the Almighty and in service to the country he loved. During World War II, Currie played the trombone in the 11th Airborne Division Band. He returned to the Army as a Chaplain after graduating from Dallas Theological Seminary with a Master's Degree in Theology. He preached of the goodness and hope of the Almighty at Ft Bragg, Ludwigsburg, Germany, Fort Campbell, Pajori, Bayreuth, and Nuremberg, Germany, Vietnam, and Fort Knox. He retired as a Lt. Colonel with more than 20 years of service and began to travel the world serving and leading mission trips to more than 38 countries.

From all of Judea to the ends of the Earth, Chaplain Currie's legacy will be long remembered. Mr. Speaker, the Tennessee 7th Congressional District is better for his lasting goodwill. I ask my colleagues to join with me in honoring the life and service of Chaplain Charles Currie.

HONORING CAPTAIN EMERY BURK

**HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 22, 2013*

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the valiant services of Captain Emery Burk and thank him, as he retires, for serving Wayne State University and wider Detroit communities for 36 years.

Captain Emery Burk is retiring from the Wayne State University Police Department after 36 years of dedicated service. Born in Detroit, Michigan, Emery Burk attended Hamtramck Public schools and then attended Michigan State University, graduating in 1975 with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Criminal Justice. Mr. Burk was hired by the Wayne State University Department of Public Safety on June 21, 1976, and started the Detroit Police Academy the same month. Upon his completion of the Police Academy, Emery was assigned to patrol, often leading his shift in arrest and other related statistics. During his patrol operations, Emery was a Field Training Officer and trained many of the officers who came through the department.

Mr. Burk was the recipient of the Valor Award for heroic service as a patrol officer. At the time, he was only the second officer in the department to receive this high award. As an

officer, in addition to patrol and field training, he was also assigned to the Crime Abatement Team. He led the team to a record number of quality felony arrest and crime prevention efforts.

Captain Burk received promotions to Sergeant, Lieutenant and Captain, and currently serves as the Coordinator of Line Operations. In this capacity he has shaped and directed the Department's Comparative Statistic Model of data-driven policing, directed the campus high visibility campaign, and restructured the Field Training Program for all incoming officers.

All the while, he has worked on various university committees, including the Commencement Committee and Major Special Event Coordination Committee. In serving as Coordinator of Line Operations, he also managed the additional duties of Coordination of Auxiliary Functions, handling budget and grant management, and human resource functions.

Captain Burk has received 52 Letters of Appreciation from citizens, two Presidential Award for exceptional service to the University, a Lifesaving Award, 14 Commendations for outstanding police work, a Merit Award for exceptional service to the department, and a Valor Award for Heroic service. I applaud his career and wish him a wonderful retirement.

#### HONORING FATHER THEODORE HESBURGH

#### HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 22, 2013*

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, seventy years ago, a young man was ordained as a priest of the Congregation of Holy Cross and immediately volunteered to serve as a Navy Chaplain in World War II. At the time, duty to his church and commitments to his studies prevented him from serving in the Navy. Yet earlier this year, Father Theodore Hesburgh finally realized his dream: earning recognition as an Honorary Navy Chaplain.

This honor paid tribute to Father Hesburgh's extraordinary contributions—as a patriot of our country, as a leader of his Church, as a teacher and mentor, as a champion of the civil rights movement. He has been recognized by American presidents from Eisenhower to Obama. President Lyndon Johnson awarded him with the Presidential Medal of Freedom; President Clinton presented him with the Congressional Gold Medal, the highest honor Congress can bestow. These all paid tribute to a life that exemplified and gave meaning to the Navy Chaplain motto: “vocati ad servitium”—“called to serve.”

It is only fitting that Father Hesburgh would be honored by the Navy, which has a rich history with Notre Dame. As he has noted in the past, during World War II, “The Navy came in and kept us afloat until the war was over,” using the Notre Dame campus for the Midshipmen's School, constructing drill halls and headquarters at the school, and building classrooms on the site of what is now the Hesburgh Library.

Father Hesburgh was called to serve his faith and his fellow Catholics. He would take his first job at Notre Dame as chaplain for married veterans and would rise to serve as

President of the University. But what he has embraced most is performing the most basic duties of a C.S.C. priest: saying mass; assisting the needy and giving voice to the voiceless; serving the poor and the abandoned, the hungry and the homeless.

Father Hesburgh was called to serve the future of our country through his leadership in the field of higher education. He led Notre Dame for an incredible 35 years, yet his imprint extended further than a single campus. He demonstrated how to transform Catholic universities into exemplary institutions of higher education in modern times. He championed academic freedom and the pursuit of academic excellence. He has earned 150 honorary degrees, more than any other person in history.

Father Hesburgh was called to serve to advance the cause of human dignity and justice in our society. Appointed by President Eisenhower to the Civil Rights Commission in 1957, he would shine a light on the need for voting rights in the south. He would become known as an architect of the Civil Rights Act. He would find himself standing hand-in-hand with Martin Luther King Jr. at Soldier Field in Chicago, singing “We Shall Overcome”—a photograph of which is proudly displayed in the National Portrait Gallery.

Known as “Father Ted” to many, he understood the purpose behind the call to service, once charging a group of graduates to “be the kind of person who not only understands the injustices of this life, but is also willing to do something about them.” That is what Father Hesburgh has done every day for the past 70 years.

His students have been inspired by his message. Our country has been blessed by his leadership. The people have been strengthened by his presence. We are all grateful that he answered the call to serve.

On the 70th anniversary of his ordination and as we approach his 96th birthday, we know that Americans will long be blessed by the legacy of Father Theodore Hesburgh.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. VICKY HARTZLER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 22, 2013*

Mrs. HARTZLER. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, May 21, 2013, I was unable to vote. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows: on rollcall No. 164, “yea;” on rollcall No. 165, “yea;” on rollcall No. 166, “yea.”

#### SARAH BOOTHBY

#### HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 22, 2013*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Sarah Boothby for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Sarah Boothby is an 8th grader at Mandalay Middle School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Sarah Boothby is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Sarah Boothby for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

#### HONORING MR. RODRIC J. MYERS UPON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT

#### HON. CANDICE S. MILLER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 22, 2013*

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, today Ranking Member ROBERT BRADY and I join together on behalf of the House of Representatives to pay tribute to Mr. Rodric J. Myers, Director of House Garages and Parking Security with the Sergeant at Arms, on the occasion of his retirement on June 14, 2013. Rod has served this institution with distinction for over 40 years—both as an officer with U.S. Capitol Police and with the Office of the Sergeant at Arms. His capable guidance, trusted mentorship, and steady leadership have been invaluable assets not only to his staff and colleagues, but to every Congressional office.

A native of Indianapolis, Indiana, Rod Myers joined the U.S. Capitol Police in June 1972. He both began and ended his career with the U.S. Capitol Police in the Capitol Division, first as a uniform patrol officer in and around U.S. Capitol, and eventually as the Administrative Specialist for the entire Capitol Division. Rod was responsible for time and attendance for approximately 100 officers, the daily roster assignment of officers, as well as working an assignment of his own outside of his administrative duties. Rod was—as everyone who ever worked with him will attest—the man who made the trains run on time. His 29 years of service with the department were marked by a remarkable devotion to detail and a demonstration of professionalism in the highest degree.

During Rod's long tenure with the U.S. Capitol Police he had the honor of working ten Presidential Inaugurations, as well as 40 State of the Union addresses. Needless to say, he had the opportunity to meet and greet numerous dignitaries and heads of state over the years, but perhaps his most cherished moment was a visit by his beloved Dallas Cowboys football team. Rod—being the U.S. Capitol Police administrative specialist—got this assignment himself.

On July 9, 2001, Rod was appointed Director of House Garages and Parking Security with the Sergeant at Arms. Throughout the past 11 years, he has worked tirelessly to establish parking protocols and procedures that enhance both the safety and security of Members and staff. Rod has crafted a comprehensive on-going training program for all Garages and Parking Security staff, coordinating with the U.S. Capitol Police and the Office of the Attending Physician to ensure that his staff is

prepared for any eventuality. He has worked closely with the Committee on House Administration over the years concerning every facet of the House parking regulations. Rod is also involved in continuity and contingency planning efforts for the Sergeant at Arms.

Rod Myers' profound compassion and deep commitment to this institution are second to none. From events such as 9/11 and the anthrax incident, to an earthquake, his gentle nature always projects a sense of assurance and calm to all who encounter him. His leadership by example and an ability to motivate are benchmarks in a long and distinguished career.

Please join me in commending the outstanding service of Mr. Rodric J. Myers, to the Congress of the United States and congratulating him on his retirement. We wish you well in all your future endeavors.

IN MEMORY OF MR. LONAL XELA  
ROBINSON

**HON. AL GREEN**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 22, 2013*

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I would like to honor the memory of a gifted young man and community servant, Mr. Lonal Xela Robinson. With exceptional skill and purpose, he dedicated his life to helping those around him and enlightening his community through the arts.

Mr. Robinson was born in Champaign, Illinois on June 24, 1979. His parents instilled within him a love for community service and an evident compassion for all of God's creatures. While in high school, Mr. Robinson achieved the prodigious feats of writing the play "CHANGE" for the National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Club, Inc, as well as serving as vice president in charge of programs for the organization. His play, "CHANGE," won first place in a national convention held in New York City, judged by Broadway stage casts. Mr. Robinson later attended Langston University where he distinguished himself further by founding the Langston University Theatre and Drama Club, as well as traveling the country doing mission work with the Wesley Foundation and United Methodist Church.

After graduating college, Mr. Robinson went on to lead and write for the Houston Sun. Under his leadership, the newspaper expanded its presence and embarked on bold community initiatives in Houston. He led the organization in its adoption of Emancipation Park to present back-to-school rallies and talent shows for children in the community. He started the Houston Sun Presents program, which offered educational, instructive, and entertaining programs and services to the community. Along with his work in the community and leadership of the Houston Sun, Mr. Robinson wrote two yet-to-be published works of poetry, "Pieces of Me" and "Poetry for all Seasons." He also served in various organizations: ombudsman for the National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Clubs, Inc. and the National Council of Negro Women. He also received a number of awards for his contributions to the community, including the 4-H Club Spirit Award, Million Men

March Award, and the Houston Sun Beacon of Light: Men of Valor Award.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Robinson will be missed dearly by a multitude of family and friends. This family includes his mother, Dorris Ellis Robinson; brother, Sirrod Robinson; two sisters, Shuronda and Dorcaus Robinson; as well as a loving extended family. Mr. Robinson will be remembered in Houston as a thoughtful and intelligent young man who used the prime years of his life to make his community a better place.

HONORING HEROES FOR VICTIMS  
2013 CONGRESSIONAL VICTIMS'  
RIGHTS CAUCUS AWARDS

**HON. TED POE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 22, 2013*

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, RAINN, Merced's Community Violence Intervention and Prevention Task Force, Michele Steeb, Martha Herm, LaWanda Hawkins, and Suzanne Beaudoin are six selfless individuals and organizations that have changed the lives of innumerable victims around the country.

Recently, the Congressional Victims' Rights Caucus honored these very special advocates and organizations during our annual VRC Awards Ceremony for going above and beyond for victims.

Congressman JIM COSTA and I serve as co-chairs of the Victims' Rights Caucus.

I nominated RAINN, the Rape Abuse and Incest National Network, for the Suzanne McDaniel Award for Public Awareness. Just like Suzanne, RAINN has pioneered efforts in the victims' rights community.

RAINN was founded by my friend Scott Berkowitz. It began with the creation of the National Sexual Assault Hotline and has grown to assist and advocate for victims in a variety of innovative ways. Although Scott is from New Jersey, he's a lot like a Texan, and that is why I respect him so much.

Scott and his organization RAINN do not stop until they reach their goal. And their goal is to prevent sexual assault and serve the victims of this awful crime. RAINN never gave up advocating for the SAFER Act (Sexual Assault Forensic Evidence Reporting Act), a bill to end the rape kit backlog. This organization knows firsthand the importance of testing rape kits in order to bring justice to victims and put perpetrators behind bars. Because of RAINN's unceasing efforts, the SAFER Act was signed into law as part of the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act earlier this year.

RAINN's National Sexual Assault Hotline has served more than 1.5 million victims, and the number of victims affected by RAINN's other services and advocacy are countless. Groups like RAINN turn victims into survivors.

Merced's Community Violence Intervention and Prevention Task Force, nominated by VRC co-chair Congressman JIM COSTA for the Lois Haight Award of Excellence and Innovation, is helping to prevent crime before it happens.

This organization is a collaboration of local leaders formed in 2006 in response to gang related violence in the Merced community.

The Task Force makes Merced a safer place by educating the community about vio-

lence, promoting character development, and providing information for families and youth.

From Gang Awareness Workshops to Merced County's first anonymous "text a tip" line, the Task Force has contributed greatly to the Merced community. Organizations like this Task Force are critical to stopping our citizens from becoming victims.

Congressman COSTA's fellow member of the California Delegation, Congresswoman DORIS MATSUI, a particularly active member of the Caucus recognized a leader in her community, Michele Steeb. Ms. Steeb, the CEO of St. John's Shelter Program for Women and Children in Sacramento received the Allied Professional Award for her dedication. Under Ms. Steeb's guidance, St. John's Shelter Program has expanded into more than just a safe place for women and children but a program to help victims thrive. The unique assistance offered like parenting classes, financial management classes, and on-the-job training empower the victims under Ms. Steeb's care to take on the world. Leaders like Michele Steeb transform the lives of crime victims.

Like Michele Steeb, Martha Herm runs a domestic violence program with innovative, community-based components that have led to the betterment of Peoria, IL for years. Ms. Herm is the Executive Director at the Center for the Prevention of Abuse, which she has lead for many years. The Center for the Prevention of Abuse is well known and highly regarded in Congressman AARON SCHOCK's district. To honor Ms. Herm's leadership, Congressman SCHOCK nominated this hero to victims with the Ed Stout Memorial Award for Outstanding Victim Advocacy. This award honors the memory of Ed Stout, the Director of Aid for Victims of Crime of St. Louis, MO—one of the nation's three oldest victim assistance organizations—who died in 2005 following a 30+ year career of inspiring crime victims and those who serve them.

Through Ms. Herm's efforts, the Center has grown from serving mainly women and children to serving all populations and working to stop violence before it starts. In the words of Mike McCoy, the Sheriff of Peoria County, "Martha Herm is a constant voice for those in need."

LaWanda Hawkins is another one who helps those in need. Congresswoman KAREN BASS nominated her for the Eva Murillo Unsung Hero Award. Ms. Hawkins is an inspiration to her community and mothers around the country.

I won't forget the story Ms. Hawkins shared with us during the award ceremony. One day she was in her car, listening to a story on the radio about a young man that was murdered. She prayed for the young man and his family the whole car ride, only to find out later that it was her own son, Reggie. He had been tragically murdered.

Ms. Hawkins never wanted another family to feel the pain she felt when she answered the phone that day notifying her that the young man she heard about on the radio was her son. She connected with other parents who experienced similar tragedies. They realized that their cases were not being solved, and they were left out of the criminal justice process. Ms. Hawkins knew that this was not right and in 1996, founded Justice for Murdered Children. Through her organization, she provides a variety of services to families of murdered children, including legal assistance,

family support groups, counseling, and community outreach and education. Not only does she continue to help aid families, but she successfully advocates for legislation to protect victims' rights.

Ms. Hawkins is a force to be reckoned with and a true champion for crime victims.

Suzanne Beaudoin is another bold woman who dedicated her life to serving crime victims. She was nominated for the Ed Stout Memorial Award by one of our newest VRC Members, Congressman MARK POCAN from Wisconsin. Like Ed Stout, Ms. Beaudoin has seen her work directly benefit survivors of crime.

Suzanne Beaudoin currently serves on the Wisconsin Crime Victims Council and has been the Director of the Victim Witness Unit of the Dane County District Attorney's Office for 20 years.

Throughout her years working in the Victim Witness Unit, she established ground-breaking programs in her community and advocated for critical victim legislation, including Wisconsin Victim's Rights Constitutional Amendment and the establishment of a local children's advocacy center. We are thankful for Ms. Beaudoin and those like her who guide victims through the criminal justice system and address the needs of survivors.

The work of these determined individuals never ceases to amaze me.

America is the greatest country in the world because of people like these.

And that's just the way it is.

SAMANTHA BENNETT

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 22, 2013

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Samantha Bennett for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Samantha Bennett is an 8th grader at Moore Middle School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Samantha Bennett is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Samantha Bennett for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. VICKY HARTZLER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 22, 2013

Mrs. HARTZLER. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, May 20, 2013, I was unable to vote. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows: on rollcall No. 161, "yea;" on rollcall No. 162, "yea;" on rollcall No. 163, "yea."

CONGRATULATING DR. DAVID J. VERDUGO, SUPERINTENDENT OF THE PARAMOUNT UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 22, 2013

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Dr. David J. Verdugo on his retirement after forty years as an educator. For the last eight years, Dr. Verdugo has served as the superintendent of the 16,000 student Paramount Unified School District. He will retire in June at the end of the current school year.

Before coming to the Paramount Unified School District, Superintendent Verdugo served at three uniquely different school districts: Spokane Public School District in the state of Washington, El Rancho Unified School District in Pico Rivera, California, and Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District, also in California. Dr. Verdugo has been a teacher, assistant principal, and principal, working with children grades K–12. He has also served as an assistant superintendent, where his responsibilities included school facility management, extensive involvement with budget development, implementation of technology programs, employer/employee relations, curriculum and instructional strategies and organizational development.

He is highly respected throughout the school district, the community and the education field. Dr. Verdugo is known for his strategic approach to major decisions, his communication with all stakeholders and his efforts to build a culture where individuals care about each other, resulting in a dramatic difference for students. His communications and work at Paramount Unified during the State's budget crisis resulted in everyone coming together so they could continue their efforts to benefit children, families and employees.

Dr. Verdugo has established a reputation as a leader focused on student learning and achievement. He possesses those critical skills essential to understanding and meeting the needs of students, staff, and parents. He is committed to excellence and believes that all students should be provided the highest quality of education in a safe and secure environment.

With experience serving students of diverse populations and socioeconomic levels in urban and suburban settings, Dr. Verdugo is a staunch supporter of strategic planning and believes strongly that it is essential to the success of any progressive school district.

As Superintendent, Dr. Verdugo has been instrumental in leading many of the school district's significant accomplishments, including dramatically increasing college and career pathways for students, fostering a resurgence of the arts, building new and transforming existing school facilities, and most importantly, raising the level of academic achievement of students to an all-time high.

Dr. Verdugo received his B.A. from Whitworth College in Spokane, Washington; his M.A. from La Verne University; and his Doctorate in Educational Administration from the University of Southern California. He was recognized as the 2008 ACSA Region 14 Superintendent of the Year. He also received the

California State University of Long Beach Superintendent Leadership Award for 2012 and was selected as a National Governing Board Member for the American Association of School Administrators (AASA). He currently serves as President of the highly respected Southern California Superintendents' Association.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in thanking and congratulating Dr. David J. Verdugo for his many years of outstanding service to our community and our young people, and wish him many happy years of retirement.

ANNIVERSARY OF THE IMPRISONMENT OF BAHAI LEADERS IN IRAN

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 22, 2013

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, this month we mark the fifth anniversary of a terrible abuse of human rights in Iran.

Seven Baha'i leaders in Iran have been in prison for five years as of May 14, 2013. They are Mahvash Sabet, Fariba Kamalabadi, Jamaloddin Khanjani, Afif Naeimi, Saeid Rezaie, Behrouz Tavakkoli, and Vahid Tizfahm.

Tragically, there are many prisoners of conscience filling Iran's jails. Our Department of State's annual Human Rights Report documents case after case of violations of religious freedom. Indeed, in Iran, a climate of hostility surrounds all non-Shia religious communities. The Baha'i as well as Sunni Muslims, evangelical Christians, and Jews are victims of discrimination and persecution.

For all the victims of this persecution, and in particular for the seven Baha'i whose grim milestone we mark this month, it is critical that we raise our voices to send a message that they are not forgotten.

These seven leaders are all members of a national-level group—the "Yaran-i-Iran" or "Friends in Iran"—which oversaw the welfare of Iran's Baha'i community. Their 20-year prison term is the longest sentence of any current prisoners of conscience in Iran.

The seven were charged with espionage, propaganda against the Islamic republic, the establishment of an illegal administration, and corruption on earth. These are typical of the false charges and misinformation used to vilify Baha'is in Iran. The defendants rejected these charges completely and categorically. Their crime is being members of the Baha'i Faith, a religion which has been the focus of systematic, government-sponsored persecution in Iran since the 1979 revolution.

The trial of the seven leaders was also the trial of an entire community of more than 300,000. For the last 30 years, more than 200 Baha'is have been killed, hundreds more imprisoned, and thousands deprived of jobs, education, and the freedom to worship.

In an act of communal self-preservation, the Baha'is created an internal university called the Baha'i Institute of Higher Education to educate those denied entry to university. It was raided in 2011 and seven educators and administrators were sentenced to four or five years' imprisonment.

In addition, some 600 Baha'is have suffered arbitrary arrests since 2004. The number of Baha'is arrested and/or imprisoned has increased dramatically in the past two years. In January 2011, 56 were in prison and 230 were awaiting trial, appeal, or sentencing; currently, there are 110 in prison and 436 awaiting the other procedures.

Followers of the Baha'i Faith, founded in Iran in 1863, are regarded as infidels and have suffered persecution both before and after the 1979 Islamic Revolution. Baha'i teachings emphasize the oneness of God, the unity of humankind, the underlying harmony of major religions, universal education, and the equality of women and men.

I support House Resolution 109 condemning the Iranian government for its persecution of its Baha'i minority. I call on my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join in co-sponsoring this resolution and my Senate colleagues in co-sponsoring Senate Resolution 75.

RAYANNA ROMERO

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 22, 2013*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Rayanna Romero for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Rayanna Romero is a 9th grader at Jefferson High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Rayanna Romero is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Rayanna Romero for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

HONORING SING FOR HOPE AND  
THE SING FOR HOPE PIANOS  
PROJECT

**HON. JERROLD NADLER**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 22, 2013*

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and commend the non-profit organization Sing for Hope, located in midtown Manhattan and dedicated to making the arts accessible to all. The Sing for Hope vision of "art for all" reflects their belief that the arts have the unique power to uplift, unite, and transform individuals and communities. They rely on the time and services donated by over 1,000 local New York City artists and performers who perform in schools, community centers and healthcare facilities. The mission of Sing for Hope is defined by the volunteer service of artists, and their belief in the transformative power of the arts.

The co-founding Directors of Sing for Hope, Camille Zamora and Monica Yunus, are internationally acclaimed opera singers who met as students at Juilliard. They established Sing for Hope in 2006 as a vehicle to encourage artists to give back to their communities. Since then, Sing for Hope has brought the magic of the arts to underserved communities throughout New York City and implemented a variety of outreach programs serving children, senior citizens, and people recovering from illness at healthcare facilities.

This summer marks the return of a very popular program created by Sing for Hope—"The Sing for Hope Pianos." Eighty-eight colorfully decorated pianos, which symbolize the 88 keys of a piano, are placed throughout New York City's public spaces in all five boroughs, for all members of the public to play and to enjoy. After the project ends, the pianos are then donated to underresourced schools and hospitals. "The Sing for Hope Pianos" are a striking embodiment of the role the arts play in our lives, and remind us that everyone should have access to treasured cultural resources. This year's return of "The Sing for Hope Pianos" has been made possible by the dedicated generosity of several entities: Chobani, Inc., a New York State-based company led by its President & CEO, Hamdi Ulukaya, as well as the Arnhold Foundation in honor of Sissy Arnhold, the Anna-Maria and Stephen Kellen Foundation, and the Bill and Ann Ziff Foundation.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking and congratulating Sing for Hope on this year's "Sing for Hope Pianos" project, as well as their ongoing dedication to volunteer service and community engagement, through encouraging greater access to the arts.

MS. LISA TATUM, J.D. ELECTED  
FIRST AFRICAN AMERICAN  
PRESIDENT OF THE STATE BAR  
OF TEXAS

**HON. AL GREEN**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 22, 2013*

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to acknowledge the extraordinary accomplishment of Ms. Lisa Tatum, J.D. On June 21, 2013, Ms. Tatum will be sworn in as the 133rd President of the State Bar of Texas, and thereby become the first African American to hold that position. With exceptional dedication, Ms. Tatum has risen through the ranks of the legal profession to become one of the preeminent lawyers in the State of Texas.

Ms. Tatum grew up and still resides in San Antonio, TX, the product of an Air Force veteran father and a loving mother. In 1991, she received her Bachelor's degree from Smith College before going on to receive her Juris Doctor in 1994 from Santa Clara University Law School. Ms. Tatum quickly attained distinction in the legal profession, prosecuting over a hundred cases for Bexar County's Criminal District Attorney's Office before successfully transitioning to private practice. Eventually, Ms. Tatum established her own law firm, LM Tatum, PLLC, informally known as The Tatum Law Practice, in 2011. The

Tatum Law Practice primarily handles cases related to corporate, public finance, financial transaction, employment, and estate contingency planning law. In addition to her remarkable career accomplishments, Ms. Tatum is a Leadership San Antonio graduate, lifelong supporter of the YMCA, and a Rotarian.

Ms. Tatum's leadership has been consistently recognized by her colleagues: Ms. Tatum was honored with a Presidential Citation in 2006 and named a Texas Rising Star by SuperLawyers in 2007. She also served on the Board of Governors of the National Bar Association, City of San Antonio Housing Authority Commission, the San Antonio Water System Citizen Advisory Panel, and as President of the San Antonio Black Lawyers Association.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to have the opportunity to pay tribute to Ms. Tatum, an accomplished lawyer and public servant. She is a determined and driven individual who will bring her diverse skills and life experience to the presidency of the State Bar of Texas.

RETIREMENT PLAN SIMPLIFICATION  
AND ENHANCEMENT ACT  
OF 2013

**HON. RICHARD E. NEAL**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 22, 2013*

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, today I am pleased to come before the House to reintroduce the Retirement Plan Simplification and Enhancement Act of 2013. Our current retirement plan rules are very complicated. My bill includes a number of common sense reforms that will simplify the rules while still protecting participants.

For example, under current law, small businesses that adopt a new retirement plan are eligible for a tax credit to cover some of their start-up costs. We're increasing the credit to \$5,000 to cover all of these expenses. I hope this will encourage more small employers to sponsor retirement plans.

Also, currently employers can exclude some part-time workers from participating in their 401(k) plans. As women are more likely than men to work part-time, these rules can be quite harmful for women in preparing for retirement. So my bill would require employers to allow certain long-term, part-time workers to make elective deferrals to their 401(k) plans.

My bill also reforms the Saver's Credit. The current Saver's Credit provides a tax incentive for families to save for retirement. However, because the Saver's Credit is currently non-refundable, it does not benefit those who need it most—low and moderate income households who have little or no federal income tax liability. Therefore, my bill would make the Saver's Credit refundable and also incentivize taxpayers to pay the credit into their retirement accounts.

The Retirement Plan Simplification and Enhancement Act also would establish a new automatic enrollment safe harbor. It was my legislation that established the existing safe harbor that promotes automatic enrollment in 401(k) plans. The power of inertia is a powerful tool. And automatically enrolling employees in 401(k)s unless they decide to opt out is a simple and effective way to harness this

power of inertia. And my legislation has incentivized many employers to implement automatic enrollment in their 401(k) plans.

However, the current safe harbor sets a minimum default level of contributions of 3 percent in the first year. Under the existing rules, employers can set the default at a higher percentage if they want to but many employers just stick with the floor amount of 3 percent. We all know that 3 percent is not enough savings for most American families—in fact, many financial institutions recommend that employees save at least 10 percent of their salary. So my proposal would keep the existing automatic enrollment but it would create a second safe harbor. And this second safe harbor would set the minimum default contribution rate at 6 percent in the first year, 8 percent in the second year and 10 percent in all subsequent years. Now remember, employees can lower the rate if it's too high for them—but this proposal would use the power of inertia to encourage employees to save more.

Finally, my bill would help consolidate and simplify the many employee notices required by retirement plans. The current rules require retirement plans to provide employees with lots of information regarding their plans. Although well intended, it has become information overload with many employees just ignoring the many notices—or even worse, it confuses employees. My bill would direct the Secretaries of Treasury and Labor to review the current retirement plan reporting and disclosure rules and make recommendations to improve these requirements.

Let me conclude by saying that I also intend to keep working on allowing for greater disclosure to participants in an electronic manner. We certainly need to protect employees without computers or individuals who just prefer paper. However, electronic disclosure provides many efficiencies, saves participants money that could otherwise be taken from their retirement accounts, and provides easy access to educational and financial tools. And, therefore, I plan to continue working on this issue.

My legislation provides common-sense reforms that will help Americans prepare for a financially secure retirement. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting “The Retirement Plan Simplification and Enhancement Act.”

RAFAEL RESENDEZ

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 22, 2013

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Rafael Resendez for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Rafael Resendez is a 12th grader at Jefferson High School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Rafael Resendez is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Rafael Resendez for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of his future accomplishments.

EAST BAY PROFILE: VETERAN OF RICHMOND'S NEIGHBORHOOD WARS CHANGES LIFE

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 22, 2013

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend my colleagues to read the following article, titled “East Bay Profile: Veteran of Richmond's neighborhood wars changes life,” posted in the West County Times on May 21, 2013.

I've had the opportunity to meet this extraordinary young man, Eric Welch, a number of times, both here in Washington and in my district in Richmond, California, during visits with the City of Richmond's Office of Neighborhood Safety's Peacekeeper Fellowship program, of which Eric is a member.

Eric's only 24 years old but has had a long history of involvement with gun violence. At 14, he was almost killed in a shooting, and by the time he was 22 he had already been shot on four separate occasions. But now, he is on a new path in life now, and that is very encouraging.

I was so proud to read that this fall Eric will start classes at Tallahassee Community College in Florida, and that he hopes to later transfer to Florida A&M University. And just as exciting, Eric has been selected as a Summer Policy Fellow for the Campaign for Youth Justice in Washington, D.C. this summer where he will write for the group's blog, brief congressional committees on his experience, and work with grass-roots groups to reduce youth crime.

The Richmond ONS Peacemaker Fellowship exists to save lives—Eric is a living testament to that. It is designed to create a viable space for at-risk individuals ages 16–25 to contribute in a real way to building and sustaining community peace, health and well-being—with the express purpose of eliminating gun violence in Richmond. Time and again I'm blown away by the work these young men do to develop a positive life path forward and mentor other young men in similar situations.

I wish Eric all the best, both in Washington this summer and at school this fall. I hope his successes will serve as inspiration for many more to follow in his steps.

[From the Contra Costa Times, May 21, 2013]

EAST BAY PROFILE: VETERAN OF RICHMOND'S NEIGHBORHOOD WARS CHANGES LIFE

(By Robert Rogers)

RICHMOND.—Eric Welch's mind and heart are on a higher plane, but the street reflexes remain.

He'll be in Washington, D.C., this summer, wearing tailored suits and briefing Congress. But for now, Welch still tenses when certain cars round the block.

He has good reason. He was shot four times before his 22nd birthday.

“At first, getting shot was a source of anger,” Welch said. “Now I look back at it differently. I wonder why I got so lucky in a

place where people like me get killed all the time.

Welch, now 24 but with the weary face and measured speech of an older man, has gone from self-described “goon” and survivor of multiple episodes of gun violence to celebrated member of the Office of Neighborhood Safety's fellowship program. The program appeals to about 50 violent residents with incentives, including small cash stipends, if they give up gunplay and pick up education and job training.

The program is unique in the region, a city-sponsored department that stems violence through intervention in the lives of violent offenders. For his efforts, Welch earned an internship with the Campaign for Youth Justice, a Washington, D.C.-based nonprofit focused on juvenile justice.

Welch will serve as a “policy fellow” from June 10 to Aug. 9, writing for the group's blog, briefing congressional committees on his experience and working with grass-roots groups to reduce youth crime.

It's a far cry from Welch's teen and early adult years, a haze of neighborhood beefs and sporadic gunfire, interrupted by hospital and jail stints. He bounced between a dozen schools, toting guns when most kids still were watching Saturday morning cartoons.

Guns and violence permeated his rugged south Richmond neighborhood. It was only when he enrolled in the Office of Neighborhood Safety program after a 2010 jail stint that he turned away from crime.

“Eric is a shining example to other young people in Richmond and beyond that people can change, and in the virtue of hard work,” said program director DeVone Boggan.

CHEATING DEATH

Welch leans on a black gate in front of a California bungalow home at 26th Street and Virginia Avenue.

“This is the spot where I got shot that first time, almost died, man,” Welch says, looking down the street. “I was 14.”

Welch re-enacts the scene from a decade ago. He was “hanging” with another teen a few blocks from the apartment where he grew up with his mother and sister.

One block west, a car glided around the corner. Rifles poked through the windows and spit flames from the barrels, a nano-second before the crackle of gunfire.

“I don't remember the car, just the flame spit out in the night; it was AK-47s,” Welch said.

Welch and his friend dove to the sidewalk and crawled for cover.

“The bullets was whistling by, and ricocheting all over the concrete, too,” Welch said.

The pain was an intense heat, Welch remembered. A large-caliber slug struck Welch underneath his left arm, collapsing his lung and breaking his clavicle. Welch's friend was hit in the hip. The car screeched away.

“Lot of blood, out my mouth, out my chest. I thought I was going to die,” Welch said. “I couldn't breathe.”

Three scars mark his upper torso. One is the entry point near his armpit. One is the spot in his side where doctors plunged a tube to help him breathe. The exit wound is on his back, knotted into a mound of dark scar tissue the size of a golf ball.

LOW POINTS

Welch survived, but his innocence didn't. “After that, I was bouncing around schools, just living the neighborhood life,” Welch said. “I was angry. I was vengeful.”

His drive for vengeance intensified after the 2006 killing of Sean “Shawny Bo” Melson, a pint-size 15-year-old police say was a charismatic, up-and-coming neighborhood leader. To this day, odes to “Shawny Bo” and old photos are posted on social networking sites.



Welch and other friends vowed to “keep it lit” for Melson, meaning to exact retribution on rival neighborhoods they blamed for his death.

Welch was shot three more times, in both ankles, the buttocks and the hip. He declines to get into specifics but admits he has been involved in “shootouts.”

“I have a chance at a peaceful life; I just don’t want to die or go to jail when I am so close.”

Welch said that in Richmond’s toughest neighborhoods, violent deaths of relatives and friends, shootouts and close calls “hang over everything.”

#### THE FUTURE

The mere notion of a future is a far cry from where Welch has been.

“Eric was on his way to prison or death, for sure,” said Sam Vaughn, an Office of Neighborhood Safety neighborhood change agent who has worked closely with Welch. “Where he is now, about to go to college, is a miracle given what he’s been through.”

Welch spends little time in the old neighborhood, knowing he could lose it all in an instant.

He plans to attend Tallahassee Community College in Florida in the fall, and he hopes to transfer to Florida A&M University. But first, he’s on his way to the Capitol.

“I am really looking forward to a new start, a place where I can be by myself and focus and not worry about my past catching up with me,” Welch said. “I feel alone here, in my neighborhood. My friends are mostly dead or incarcerated.”

#### OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

##### HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 22, 2013*

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$16,787,282,992,090.73. We’ve added \$6,160,405,943,177.65 to our debt in 4 years. This is \$6 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

#### SANDY MATA

##### HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 22, 2013*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Sandy Mata for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Sandy Mata is a 12th grader at Jefferson High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Sandy Mata is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Sandy Mata for winning the Arvada Wheat

Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

#### HONORING MINNESOTA STATE REPRESENTATIVE KAREN CLARK

##### HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 22, 2013*

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I had the honor of serving as a member of the Minnesota House of Representatives for eight years prior to being elected to Congress in 2000. One of my Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party colleagues from Minneapolis, State Rep. Karen Clark, was a constant and vocal champion for social justice, economic opportunity, environmental sustainability, and human rights. State Rep. Clark continues to serve in the Minnesota House, having just completed her thirty-third legislative session. Karen’s passion, determination, and commitment as a legislator were recently displayed for the entire nation to admire as she authored legislation and lead the push for marriage equality. That legislation passed the legislature, was signed into law, and now Minnesota is the twelfth state in the union to legalize same sex marriage.

Today, the White House is recognizing the achievements and contributions of ten openly lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) public officials from across the United States. One of those officials being honored is State Rep. Karen Clark, who will join a distinguished group of leaders named “Harvey Milk Champions of Change.” This is a tremendous honor for Karen and I want to extend my heartfelt congratulations on this well deserved recognition.

Throughout her career, Karen Clark has advocated and given voice to the issues and hopes of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender Minnesotans. As the longest serving openly lesbian state legislator in the country, Karen has battled against discrimination, hate-crimes, and intolerance faced by LGBT Americans, yet she has always conducted herself with a spirit of openness, kindness, and courage. Karen has dedicated three decades to improving the lives of LGBT Minnesotans, but also all families in her South Minneapolis district. From LGBT youth to new African or Latino immigrants, low-income families to Native American women, Karen Clark has always been on the side of making government work for people to improve their lives.

Again, I would like to extend my congratulations and the shared sense of pride many friends, colleagues, and constituents of Karen feel as she is recognized by President Obama for her leadership. State Rep. Karen Clark is truly a national leader for LGBT Americans and a champion for all Minnesotans.

#### TRIBUTE TO BENTON AND SANDI MARKS

##### HON. TODD ROKITA

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 22, 2013*

Mr. ROKITA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an exceptional Hoosier couple, Mr. Benton and Mrs. Sandi Marks, who are being honored with the 2013 HAI-Life Distinguished Service Award by Hasten Hebrew Academy of Indianapolis. This honor is well-deserved because of their many years of philanthropic service to the Indianapolis Jewish community, as well as to the broader community.

Mr. Marks joined the Hasten Hebrew Academy Board of Directors in 1997 and has served in a number of leadership positions, including as president of the school. In the 1990s, he was president of the Bureau of Jewish Education and is the only person in the Indianapolis Jewish community to serve as president of both educational institutions. Mr. Marks also served as the president of the Jewish Federation and as Campaign Chair a record five times. He also was chairman of State of Israel Bonds for three years. Mr. Marks has served as a member of the Indiana Judicial Nominating Commission, and has donated his time locally to United Cerebral Palsy, Indiana Building Owners and Managers Association, and the Indiana Chapter of the Brown University National Secondary School Committee.

Mrs. Marks has devoted her life to education, serving on the Hasten Hebrew Academy Education Committee and as a board member of the school. She recently retired from Washington Township Schools but continues to serve the district as a school psychologist. She is a member of several women’s organizations in our community and works with the Great American Songbook Initiative at the Center for the Performing Arts in Carmel. Mrs. Marks is also a trusted friend and confidant of mine on education issues in my capacity as chairman of the Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Elementary, and Secondary Education.

Mr. and Mrs. Marks are wonderful entrepreneurs, philanthropists, and friends. I am honored to know them and look forward to our continued friendship. I know they will continue to serve as leaders in our community for many years to come.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF LUZERNE COUNTY HEAD START, INC. FOR DEDICATED AND SELFLESS SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

##### HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 22, 2013*

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Luzerne County Head Start, Inc. for recently celebrating its 48th Anniversary on Monday, May 20, 2013. For nearly half a century, the program has been serving Luzerne County and Wyoming County by providing quality prekindergarten education to children who come from low-income families. Head Start teachers work with children, and



their families, to help them set the foundations for success in school and in later life.

Head Start is unique in its comprehensive approach to the needs of children and families. Currently Luzerne County Head Start provides 1,037 children with early learning education. In addition to creating an environment for early academic development, Head Start also provides an environment for healthy early physical development. Children that attend Head Start receive health checkups, oral screenings and nutritious meals. The Head Start faculty also teaches their students about comprehensive health and nutrition, giving them the knowledge they will need to make the right choices about the food they eat.

Head Start also focuses on the whole family unit, not just the child. One primary goal of the program is to move preschool children and their families toward self-sufficiency. Parents are assisted with a wide range of family needs including housing and employment, as well as adult education. Head Start offers assistance to parents interested in obtaining a high school General Equivalency Diploma or other adult education and employment opportunities.

Head Start works with children at a critical learning age. The children begin to socialize with others, solve problems, and have other experiences that help them to become self-confident. I commend the Luzerne County Head Start program for their continuing service to the community. I thank them for being a valuable educational asset to the community these past 48 years, and I wish them all the best in the future.

ROSELINE MUGARUKA

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 22, 2013*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Roseline Mugaruka for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Roseline Mugaruka is an 11th grader at Standley Lake High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Roseline Mugaruka is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Roseline Mugaruka for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

PENNY FREDERICK RETIRES  
AFTER 25+ YEARS OF PUBLIC  
SERVICE

**HON. CHARLES W. BOUSTANY, JR.**

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 22, 2013*

Mr. BOUSTANY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the service and career of Penny

Angelle Frederick. For the last 25 years, she has served the people of South Louisiana for three Members of Congress as a dedicated Congressional staffer.

Penny began her career in public service working as a legislative assistant for Louisiana State Representative Harry L. Benoit. She then worked with U.S. Representatives James "Jimmy" Hayes and Chris John of South Louisiana. In January of 2005, Penny joined my staff as a constituent service representative. From Day One, Penny has been a great resource to the Third Congressional District of Louisiana. Her knowledge and guidance provided my office with a strong foundation to build on. Her personality and reputation have forged many bonds across South Louisiana. I will miss her ability to provide help and insight to constituents and most importantly, to me.

As Penny enters retirement, I would like to thank her for the work she's done as a public servant. However, I am positive her husband, Kendall, and daughters, Abbey and Lindsey, will be happy to have her around a little more. Penny, I wish you nothing but the best as you enter this next phase of your life and hope you know how grateful I am for all of your hard work over the course of these many years.

IN HONOR OF COLORADO STATE  
SENATOR PAT STEADMAN

**HON. DIANA DeGETTE**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 22, 2013*

Ms. DeGETTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Colorado State Senator Pat Steadman, who today was honored by the White House as a "Harvey Milk Champion of Change" for his commitment to equality and public service.

Pat has championed equality for LGBT Coloradans for over 20 years. While studying at the University of Colorado School of Law, Pat fought against ballot issues that targeted gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender communities. After law school, Pat worked to oppose Amendment 2 on the 1992 Colorado general election ballot. When that anti-gay amendment passed, Pat co-founded the non-profit organization that spearheaded the lawsuit to challenge the constitutionality of Amendment 2; the case eventually went all the way to the Supreme Court. This landmark case *Romer v. Evans* declared Amendment 2 unconstitutional and established the first major court precedent protecting the equal rights of LGBT Americans.

In 2009, Pat was selected to fill the vacant Colorado Senate seat in the 31st District. Since that time, he has worked hard to protect and defend the rights of all his constituents and continue his fight for equality. Last year, his partner of many years Dave Misner was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer and died in September after a brief battle. Dave was also a champion for equality, and I know he would have been so proud when this year Pat introduced for the third time the Colorado Civil Unions Act, which legalized civil unions for any two unmarried adults, regardless of gender. This landmark was signed into law by Governor John Hickenlooper on March 21, 2013. I was honored to be able to perform some of the first civil union ceremonies in Denver earlier this month. The joyful celebra-

tions reinforced the fact that Pat has achieved extraordinary things that empower and inspire his fellow Coloradoans. And I know Dave would be even more proud of Pat today.

Yesterday, Pat visited the Jefferson Memorial in Washington, D.C. and shared online his favorite inscription at the Memorial. On the southeast interior panel, he was moved by an inscription from an 1816 letter by Jefferson to a friend that reads: "I am not an advocate for frequent changes in laws and constitutions. But laws and institutions must go hand in hand with the progress of the human mind. As that becomes more developed, more enlightened, as new discoveries are made, new truths discovered and manners and opinions change, with the change of circumstances, institutions must advance to keep pace with the times. We might as well require a man to wear still the coat which fitted him when a boy as civilized society to remain ever under the regimen of their barbarous ancestors."

Pat, your service to Colorado has embodied this quote, as you work to keep our laws and institutions moving hand in hand with progress. On behalf of a grateful state, thank you.

IN HONOR OF SECOND  
LIEUTENANT LUTHER McILWAIN

**HON. NIKI TSONGAS**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 22, 2013*

Ms. TSONGAS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize and pay tribute to Second Lieutenant Luther McIlwain, of the United States Army Air Corps' famed Tuskegee Airmen. Mr. McIlwain recently passed away at the age of 91 and I seek to honor him for his dedicated service to the United States as an airman escorting bombers during World War II.

Lieutenant McIlwain was born in Blaine, South Carolina. His family moved to Lawrence, Massachusetts when he was two and he lived there until his graduation from Methuen High School in 1939. He attended college at Allen University in Columbia, South Carolina. Upon graduation, he sought to join the military in order to serve his country at a momentous time. On his first attempt, military recruiters ridiculed him for his desire to become a pilot. He was repeatedly told that he would not be able to fly because of his race. Undeterred, Luther enlisted in the Army Air Corps in 1943 and ultimately became an aviator with the famed Tuskegee Airmen.

The Tuskegee Airmen were a group of soldiers who continuously placed their country's needs above their own, often in the face of extreme adversity. Due to the segregation of the military at the time, the Tuskegee Airmen were routinely subjected to racial discrimination from their fellow service members and civilians alike. This never dissuaded their devotion to their duty or their Nation. They chose to pursue difficult training, knowing it would ultimately place them in direct confrontation with enemy combatants. Luther McIlwain proudly stood as a member of this elite unit.

Luther McIlwain fought in the skies above Europe and North Africa with bravery and distinction. He continued to place others first by serving as an instructor during the war, training nearly one thousand aviators in his unit.

Shortly after WWII, Mr. McIlwain was honorably discharged. He went on in his great tradition of service after the war by serving 22 years on the New York City Police Department.

In 2007 he was awarded the Congressional Gold Medal by President Bush. The ceremony was held in the U.S. Capitol, and Mr. McIlwain, along with nearly three hundred surviving members of the Tuskegee Airmen and their families, accepted the award on behalf of their departed colleagues.

Today, we honor Second Lieutenant Luther McIlwain for his lifetime of exemplary service, especially during WWII as a member of the legendary Tuskegee Airmen, who, undeterred by the rampant racism and prejudice of the time, sought to place their country above all else and paved the way for desegregation of our Armed Forces.

SAVANNAH GALLEGOS-ALEXUS

### HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 22, 2013*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Savannah Gallegos-Alexus for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Savannah Gallegos-Alexus is a 7th grader at Drake Middle School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Savannah Gallegos-Alexus is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Savannah Gallegos-Alexus for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

MAY IS MOTORCYCLE AWARENESS MONTH

### HON. TIM GRIFFIN

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 22, 2013*

Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas. Mr. Speaker, as Co-Chair of the Congressional Motorcycle Caucus and a motorcycle enthusiast, I rise today in support of Motorcycle Awareness Month, which is celebrated each May.

With more than 27 million motorcycle riders today, and that number steadily increasing, being mindful of other types of road and highway users is critical for everyone.

This is especially the case as the weather is warming up and more motorcycle riders are hitting the road.

Drivers' failure to see motorcycles is one of the leading causes of motorcycle crashes, and the prevalence of distracted and inattentive driving poses a significant threat to motorcycle riders.

I urge vehicle drivers to check mirrors and blind spots and actively look for motorcycles—especially at intersections. Taking that brief moment can mean the difference between life and death for motorcycle riders and vehicle drivers alike.

I also encourage my fellow motorcycle riders to take appropriate safety precautions by practicing safe riding techniques and wearing appropriate safety equipment.

The goal is to get all road and highway users to their destinations without incident.

Let's work together to make this a reality.

RECOGNIZING THE 95TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE REPUBLIC DAY OF AZERBAIJAN

### HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 22, 2013*

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the people of the Republic of Azerbaijan—as they are celebrating the 95th anniversary of the Republic Day on May 28.

The Republic Day commemorates the day Azerbaijan first declared independence from the Russian Empire on May 28, 1918. Though the independence of the Republic of Azerbaijan was ended by occupying Soviet forces in 1920, in its 2 years of independence Azerbaijan made important accomplishments on state-building, armed forces, education, their economy, and universal suffrage, from which it benefits today.

Following the collapse of the Soviet Union, Azerbaijan restored its independence in 1991. Parliament adopted the Constitution Act on the Restoration of the State of Independence of the Republic of Azerbaijan on October 18, 1991.

The last two decades of independence has not been without challenges. The territorial integrity of Azerbaijan was violated and the Nagorno-Karabakh and seven surrounding regions of Azerbaijan have been occupied by neighboring Armenia. In 1993 the UN Security Council adopted four resolutions demanding complete, unconditional, and immediate withdrawal of Armenian forces from the occupied territories of Azerbaijan. I am happy that Azerbaijan is committed to peaceful resolution of the conflict with Armenia, and I support a swift, peaceful resolution to this conflict, as well.

Azerbaijan is a key global security partner for the United States. Azerbaijan has extended important over-flight clearances for U.S. and NATO flights to support ISAF and has regularly provided landing and refueling operations at its airports for U.S. and NATO forces. Also, Azerbaijan plays an important role in the Northern Distribution Network, a supply route to Afghanistan, by making available its ground and Caspian naval transportation facilities. Azerbaijan was also the first predominantly Muslim country to send troops to Iraq.

Azerbaijan has opened Caspian energy resources to development by U.S. companies and has emerged as a key player for global energy security. The Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan pipeline project is the most successful project contributing to the development of the South Caucasus region and has become the main artery delivering Caspian Sea hydrocarbons to

the U.S. and our partners in Europe. Notably, Azerbaijan also provides roughly 40% of Israel's oil consumption. Azerbaijan is considered a leading initiator of the Trans Anatolian Natural Gas Pipeline (TANAP) which will open up the Southern Gas Corridor to Europe. As a co-chair of the Congressional Azerbaijan Caucus, I congratulate the Republic of Azerbaijan on the Republic Day. I believe we will continue to work with them to advance our partnership which benefits both the US and Azerbaijan. I look forward to further collaboration between our two nations.

HONORING BOB J. McDONALD

### HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 22, 2013*

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to recognize Mr. Bob McDonald from Athens, Texas. Mr. McDonald is to be commended for his work to support and maintain the historic Athens Cemetery in Henderson County, Texas.

A retired engineer, Mr. McDonald began his work at the cemetery at a time when it was badly in need of refurbishment. He designed and oversaw the installation of a new sprinkler system, a new brick entry and wrought-iron fencing, a columbarium, and numerous other improvements. For more than fifteen years, he has played a vital role in the cemetery's operation, serving as treasurer, public liaison, and overseer of the grounds.

Mr. McDonald also spearheaded efforts to research and classify the cemetery's interments so that visitors could easily find the graves they sought. He also created a roster of veterans buried at the cemetery that dates back to 1850, which is sorted according to the conflict in which the veterans served.

Mr. McDonald also volunteers his time at the East Texas Arboretum, and is a former member of the Trinity Valley Community College Board of Trustees. He was honored as the Athens Citizen of the Year in 1999.

I would like to take this opportunity, on behalf of the entire 5th Congressional District of Texas, to thank Mr. Bob McDonald for his dedicated philanthropy to the citizens of Henderson County, Texas.

IN HONOR OF THE QUAKERTOWN BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL WOMEN'S CLUB

### HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 22, 2013*

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, the Quakertown Business and Professional Women's Club celebrates its 60th anniversary on May 28, 2013. The diverse group of working women came together in January 1953, setting a goal of equity and economic self-sufficiency for women by elevating standards, promoting their interests and bringing about a spirit of cooperation among business and professional women in Quakertown.

Club members provide support for local organizations: St. Luke's Hospital, Children's

Developmental Center, Quakertown Community Day, Quakertown Alive, YMCA and A Women's Place.

Also, they proudly participate in the March of Dimes Walk, American Cancer Society, Relay for Life, Quakertown Cares, Quakertown Food Pantry, and the Sarah Parvin Soccer Fest.

The club annually awards two \$1,000 scholarships to graduating seniors at Quakertown Community High School.

Congratulations to the Quakertown Business and Professional Women's Club for inspiring women to achieve their personal goals and contribute to the greater community.

#### THE GROWING CRISIS IN AFRICA'S SAHEL REGION

**HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 22, 2013*

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, the Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations, which I chair, held a hearing that examined the challenges faced by the nations of Africa's Sahel region, especially the spread of terrorism and drug trafficking in the area. These problems alone pose a danger to the security of both the Sahel and developed countries, not only because of air traffic to West Africa that transits northern Mali, but also because of the use of the region as a base of attacks by Islamic extremists on Western targets. Moreover, the preexisting humanitarian crisis is now worsened, as are human rights concerns. The underlying political instability is becoming equally serious.

We held the hearing as a joint session because the threat we face goes beyond the jurisdiction of one subcommittee. It involves not only Africa's Sahel region, but also countries in North Africa, specifically Algeria and Libya. It also involves terrorist groups originating from and based in nations outside the Sahel. It is a sign of how seriously the Foreign Affairs Committee considers this matter that our three subcommittees have come together today to consider this matter.

There are various definitions of the Sahel, but for the purpose of the hearing, we meant the nations of Senegal, Mauritania, Mali, Burkina Faso, Niger and Chad.

In early 2012, the Government of Mali was overthrown in a military coup and subsequently lost control of the northern area of the country, which constitutes more than half of its land area. Mali had long been considered a stable example of African democracy, but as we learned in our Subcommittee's hearing in June 2012, the coup and resulting loss of so much territory revealed a hollowness and rot within the Mali democratic system. The influx of well-armed terrorist groups, broken promises to neglected ethnic groups, lack of adherence to democratic principles and rampant drug smuggling all made the Mali government vulnerable to breakdown. We must ask now whether other countries in Africa's Sahel region are also more vulnerable than we think.

Mali provided a staging ground for al-Qaeda in the Islamic Mahgreb, or AQIM, which is daily becoming an ever-greater threat in the region and perhaps globally. AQIM is

considered the best funded of all al-Qaeda affiliates and, through its ties to other terrorist groups, may be funding their activities as well.

In a July Subcommittee hearing last year, we learned that Boko Haram in Nigeria is not a unified organization, but rather various factions—some of which are focused on embarrassing the Nigerian government, but others that have a more global jihadist view. It is the latter that have been present in northern Mali and pose a threat to Western interests. Boko Haram attacks led Nigerian President Goodluck Jonathan last week to declare a state of emergency in three northern states in his country. A radical Boko Haram splinter group, known as Ansaru, may have attacked Nigerian troops en route to the peacekeeping operation in Mali.

In Mali, three terrorist groups dominate the rebellion that split off the North: MUJWA, a splinter group of AQIM; Ansar al Deen, an Islamist Tuareg rebel group, and the MNLA, a more secular Tuareg group. These groups have different aims and sometimes clash with one another. Nevertheless, they collectively have posed and continue to pose a threat to the peace in Mali and the region. As a result of the rebel actions in northern Mali, there currently are more than 300,000 internally displaced persons in Mali, more than 74,000 refugees in Mauritania, 50,000 refugees in Niger and nearly 50,000 refugees in Burkina Faso. The displacement of nearly half a million Malians strains already-scarce resources in the Sahel, with aid recipients often in remote areas.

French forces were able to forestall a rebel advance into southern Mali earlier this year, and an African military contingent is in the process of being deployed to Mali even now. However, chasing rebels out of Mali's major northern towns will be easier than ending ongoing terrorist attacks or reconciling ethnic groups whose enmity has grown over the last year.

#### TRIBUTE TO JANE MARKS

**HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO**

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 22, 2013*

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Jane Marks for her years of work helping families affected by Alzheimer's disease, not only in West Virginia, but across the United States of America.

Jane Marks joined the Alzheimer's Association, West Virginia Chapter in 2001 as Executive Director and has been serving in the role as a tireless advocate ever since. Through her work with the State chapter, Jane has raised the association's profile by expanding their programmatic reach and championing various policy initiatives.

Recently, Jane served on the 2012–2014 Alzheimer's Association Strategic Plan Steering Committee, which aimed to aggressively advance their mission to eliminate Alzheimer's disease. In addition, she presented at the White House Conference on Aging Solutions Forum and has testified at numerous legislative committee hearings. Jane has also developed a wide variety of training and curriculum for families and caregivers, focusing on all facets of Alzheimer's, from caring for the baby

boomer generation to a new extended learning course in partnership with West Virginia University.

On May 23, Jane Marks will receive the 2013 Rockefeller Award for her outstanding support and dedication to the cause of Alzheimer's disease in West Virginia, and indeed, throughout the United States. Jane is truly deserving of this honor, as thousands of Alzheimer's families, including my own, have her to thank for many years fighting this disease and helping those affected by it. After twelve years as Executive Director, Jane will be retiring June, however, she will remain a passionate advocate for everyone facing this terrible disease.

Jane lives in Charleston with her husband, John. She has two children, John Thomas and Elizabeth, and is expecting her first grandchild in just a few weeks.

Mr. Speaker, the State of West Virginia, the United States of America, and my own family owe Jane Marks a sincere and heartfelt thanks for her tireless service to everyone affected by Alzheimer's disease.

#### HONORING THE MEMORY OF LANDSMAN WALTER P. JOHNSTON

**HON. JACKIE WALORSKI**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 22, 2013*

Mrs. WALORSKI. Mr. Speaker, today I wish to honor Civil War Medal of Honor recipient Landsman Walter P. Johnston.

At the young age of 13, Landsman Johnston bravely enlisted in the United States Navy. He was assigned to the USS *Fort Hindman*, a steamboat built in Jeffersonville, Indiana. During an engagement near Harrisonburg, Louisiana, Landsman Johnston suffered a severe hand wound that dramatically impaired his physical condition. Despite his horrendous injury, Landsman Johnston bravely took the place of another seaman to sponge and lead one of the cannons against the Confederate forces. The USS *Fort Hindman* was severely damaged in the battle, but thanks to the heroism of Landsman Johnston and his fellow sailors, the ship lived to see another day. After serving in the Navy, Landsman Johnston moved to La Porte, Indiana where he worked in the broom manufacturing business, until he passed away on May 8th, 1888 at the age of 39.

Too often, the heroic tales of our Nation's brave servicemen are lost to the back pages of history. Thanks to the hard work of Ms. Colleen Malinowski and the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, Landsman Walter P. Johnston's legacy has been revived. Landsman Johnston leaves behind an incredible legacy that will live on to inspire many Hoosiers. His life is a testament to the American fighting spirit that still lives on in all our men and women currently serving in the Armed Forces.

I am honored to recognize the selfless heroics of Landsman Walter P. Johnston. Joining Hoosiers across the State, we remember his brave actions that helped preserve the lives of his fellow sailors, and the Union.

## HONORING THE KENTUCKY HEADHUNTERS

### HON. ED WHITFIELD

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 22, 2013*

Mr. WHITFIELD. Mr. Speaker, what began in 1968 as family members joining together to play in an old house on their farm in Metcalfe County, Kentucky, eventually grew to become the Grammy-winning group, the Kentucky Headhunters.

Recognized by the Country Music Association, Academy of Country Music, and American Music Awards, the Kentucky Headhunters share elite company with other legends such as Bill Monroe, The Everly Brothers, and Loretta Lynn in the Kentucky Music Hall of Fame.

Like several other leading bands, the road to success for this small-town group was paved with various stumbling blocks and changes in course, but eventually they found their way and in doing so established their own brand of music.

In honor of this journey, quite fittingly, new signage will be unveiled today proclaiming Highway 640 in Metcalfe County "The Kentucky Headhunter Highway."

Also, in conjunction with this, Metcalfe County Judge Executive Greg Wilson and Mayor Howard Garrett will sign a proclamation declaring today "Kentucky Headhunter Day" in Edmonton/Metcalfe County.

As business owners and residents throughout this community come together to celebrate this occasion, I too wish to recognize the accomplishments of band members Richard Young, Fred Young, Greg Martin, and Doug Phelps.

Forty-five years after first assembling in that farmhouse in rural Metcalfe County, a permanent marker will now stand to remind travelers of the road to success for this enduring band. May it also seek to inspire others to follow their dreams and never give up on their own pursuits.

## NOW THERE ARE FIVE TEAMS FROM VANDALIA CHRISTIAN SCHOOL CALLED CHAMPIONS

### HON. HOWARD COBLE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 22, 2013*

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, Vandalia Christian School in Greensboro, North Carolina, wrapped up its spring sports season with two more championships—girls soccer and boys baseball. I say two more because this past fall, Vandalia Christian won State championships in boy's basketball, boy's soccer, and cheerleading. It is a year unlike any other, five championships for one school from the Sixth District of North Carolina.

The boy's baseball team finished the regular season with an impressive 15-game-winning streak. This was the first time in school history that the boys won championships in soccer, basketball, and baseball in the same school year. A ton of credit can be given to VCS triple threat athlete, Houston Miller, who was a part of all three championship squads and

pitched for the Vikings throughout the season. On May 10, Vandalia defeated Wilson Christian, 8–3, for the championship. This was the boy's baseball second championship in the past two years under Coach Luke Oates. Those who assisted Coach Oates included Assistant/Pitching Coach Ryan Nelson, Statistician Alyce Lentz, and Bookkeeper Laura Joyce. The team roster include the aforementioned Houston Miller, Michael Matthews, Nathaniel Hobbs, Josh McClellan, James Waggoner, Jasper White, Noah Joyce, Ethan Willis, Brayden McMillan, Jordan Mitchell; Bryson Gordon, Jacob Cable, Hunter Miller, Tyler Crook, Matt Hobbs, Henderson Lentz, and Rex Atkins.

On May 11, the Vandalia girls won the State soccer crown with their win over Wilmington Christian after the game came down to a series of penalty kicks (PKs). Katelyn Roop scored in regulation for the Vikings, while Allison Garner, Sydney Mitchell, and Laurie Powell scored the penalty kicks. The Vikings went three for four in PKs while VCS goalie Makayla Miller stopped three of four PKs by Wilmington Christian. The team was led by Head Coach Bobby Kaiser and Assistant Kristen Kaiser. The championship squad includes Katie Talkington, Laurie Powell, Melissa Pando, Ashley Pollard, Sydney Mitchell, Cristan Lewis, Abby Pack, Addy Hargett, Rene Burton, Lauren Chestnutt, Kalie Hazelwood, Elizabeth Fondow, Courtney Wood, Kara Smith, Whitney Dickens, Jill Georgevich, Allison Garner, Madison Ellis, Katie White, Makayla Miller, and Katelyn Roop.

Everyone who calls themselves a Viking should be rightfully proud of the five State championships this year. Congratulations to Principal Jeremy Cordova, Athletic Director Luke Oates, the faculty, staff, students, and particularly, the athletes of Vandalia for winning five sports crowns this year. The citizens of the Sixth District of North Carolina are proud to say that we are the home of the champions from Vandalia Christian School.

## HONORING CHAIM WEIZMANN

### HON. LARRY BUCSHON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 22, 2013*

Mr. BUCSHON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a man with considerable ties to the 8th District of Indiana and the first President of the State of Israel, Chaim Weizmann.

Weizmann was born in Poland in 1874 and became an accomplished chemist. While lecturing in England in 1916 he was asked by Winston Churchill to help Britain meet its acetone shortage.

In an effort to meet this request, Weizmann created a new process of acetone production through the fermentation process, which came to be known as the Weizmann Process and greatly outpaced previous production processes. As a physician with a strong background in organic chemistry, I can appreciate this work.

This breakthrough led to the issuance of U.S. Patent on the Weizmann Process, and in 1917 Weizmann established his first U.S. acetone plant on the Wabash River in Terre Haute, Indiana, a city in my home district.

The profits from his Terre Haute plant, Commercial Solvents Corporation, ultimately aided

Weizmann in realizing his dream of establishing the State of Israel.

I am glad to honor President Weizmann for his contributions to the establishment of the State of Israel and to the 8th Congressional District of Indiana.

## TRIBUTE TO NANCY CIPOLETTI

### HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 22, 2013*

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Nancy Cipoletti for her twenty-two years serving thousands of West Virginia families affected by Alzheimer's disease through outreach and support programs.

Nancy Cipoletti began her work with the Alzheimer's Association as Executive Director of the Southern West Virginia Chapter before becoming Program Director for the merged statewide chapter. Currently, Nancy works with Alzheimer's families as Director of Alzheimer's Programs for the West Virginia Bureau of Senior Services, where she manages and monitors the Family Alzheimer's In-Home Respite (FAIR) Program and Title III-E of the Family Caregiver Support Act.

In addition, Nancy serves on the Advisory Council of the West Virginia Partnership for Elder Living as well as the Direct Care Worker Curriculum Work Group, which developed a standardized curriculum and certification process for in-home direct care workers. As a part of the Alzheimer's Association's Make-A-Plan Subcommittee on Care Systems, Nancy helped develop West Virginia's Alzheimer's State Plan in 2011.

On May 23, Nancy Cipoletti will receive the 2013 Rockefeller Award for her outstanding support and dedication to the cause of Alzheimer's disease in West Virginia. Nancy is truly deserving of such an honor, as thousands of West Virginia Alzheimer's families have her to thank for support coping and fighting this awful disease.

Nancy lives in Charleston with her husband of forty-six years, Jack Cipoletti. Together they have two sons, Jay and Chad, and three granddaughters.

Mr. Speaker, the State of West Virginia owes Nancy Cipoletti a debt of gratitude for her many years of working with, and caring for, Alzheimer's families.

## ADVOCATING FOR AMERICAN JACOB OSTREICHER'S FREEDOM AFTER TWO YEARS IN BOLIVIAN DETENTION

### HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 22, 2013*

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, earlier this week, I chaired a hearing of the Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations that pressed for the immediate freedom and repatriation of Mr. Jacob Ostreicher, a U.S. citizen from Brooklyn, New York, who has been detained in Bolivia for 720 days. I especially

want thank our distinguished witness who testified at that hearing, Mr. Sean Penn, for taking time out of his very busy schedule to testify before the subcommittee.

The human rights subcommittee that I chair held two hearings in the 112th Congress on Mr. Ostreicher's case, one in June and the second in August 2012. The witnesses included Mr. Ostreicher's wife, Miriam Ungar, his daughter, Chaya Weinberger, Steve Moore, a retired FBI agent who investigated Mr. Ostreicher's case on a pro bono basis, and Mr. Ostreicher's two Bolivian attorneys, Mr. Yimy Montañano and Mr. Jerjes Justiniano—who are not only extraordinarily effective and competent defense lawyers, but brave as well.

The record—including their testimonies—established that Mr. Ostreicher is innocent, and is the victim of an elaborate, high-level government extortion ring that has fleeced approximately \$27 million worth of assets from the rice operation that he had been managing.

It's time Jacob came home to his wife and family and friends. Basic justice and humanitarianism—Jacob is very ill—adds to the urgency that he be freed.

In one sense, a lot has happened since the hearing last August. Tragically, Mr. Ostreicher has developed the symptoms of Parkinson's Disease, likely due to the sustained, severe stress to which he has been subjected.

Immediately following meetings that I had with Bolivian officials in La Paz last June, including Carlos Romero, Minister of Government, Bolivia started to investigate whether Mr. Ostreicher was the victim of extortion. A total of 27 prosecutors, judges, and officials responsible for confiscated goods who were involved in Mr. Ostreicher's case have now had charges made against them. Currently, 13 of them are in the Palmasola prison, 9 are under house arrest, and 5 are fugitives.

One of those in prison, Fernando Rivera, is a Ministry of Government adviser who I personally witnessed threaten the judge presiding at one of Mr. Ostreicher's hearings in a Santa Cruz court room. Mr. Rivera recently apologized to Mr. Ostreicher during a bail hearing, claiming that he was only following orders from then-Minister of Government Sacha Llorenti. In one of the many bizarre twists to this story, Mr. Llorenti is now the Bolivian representative to the United Nations, living in New York, just a few miles from Mr. Ostreicher's home.

I traveled for a second time to Bolivia in early December, this time with Representative NYDIA VELÁZQUEZ, to visit Mr. Ostreicher and again to press Bolivian officials to either produce the evidence that he has committed a crime or free him. High level officials assured us that Mr. Ostreicher's case would proceed fairly and expeditiously now that the extortion network was being exposed. Some officials even admitted to us privately that they believed Mr. Ostreicher is innocent.

Mr. Penn became involved in the case in October, and was instrumental in obtaining medical care for Mr. Ostreicher and for helping to secure his release from the Palmasola prison to house arrest on December 18th. With Mr. Penn's personal intervention with President Morales and with Mr. Penn in the court room, all of us hoped that Jacob would be at long last released and vindicated at a hearing in December. Inexplicably, that didn't happen.

The State Department references Mr. Ostreicher's case in its 2012 Country Reports

on Human Rights Practices for Bolivia, and notes the arrest of government officials and the stolen assets as part of its section on "arbitrary arrest or detention."

However, in another sense, the most important aspects of the case have not changed. Mr. Jacob Ostreicher is still in the custody of the Government of Bolivia. On June 4th, it will be two years since he was imprisoned. Bolivian officials are employing delay tactics and giving excuses for his continued detention that we have heard before. No evidence whatsoever has been presented to indicate that Mr. Ostreicher is guilty of any crime. And there is no sign of the \$27 million in assets from his rice operation that were confiscated. Perhaps this last fact is the real reason why Mr. Ostreicher still is not home with his family in the United States.

Recently, there have been reports from credible sources that there is another "security threat" to Mr. Ostreicher's safety. These followed the sudden removal of Bolivian security officers from the parameter of Mr. Ostreicher's residence, the day after Mr. Rivera implicated the current Bolivian representative to the U.N. in the extortion case. As long as Mr. Ostreicher is forced to remain in Bolivia, the government is responsible for and must take all necessary measures to ensure his safety.

As a result of the continued injustice in Mr. Ostreicher's case, and also in response to the growing number of cases of Americans being detained abroad in violation of their human and due process rights, I together with Rep. VELÁZQUEZ have reintroduced the Justice for Imprisoned Americans Overseas Act, or "Jacob's Law." H.R. 1778 would deny visas to foreign government officials responsible for violating the human or due process rights of an American in their custody. The travel ban would also apply to the officials' immediate family members.

It is wrong for our government to give foreign officials and their families the privilege—and it is a privilege, not a right—to visit and study in the U.S. while those same officials are wrongfully detaining an American abroad.

While this bill works its way through the legislative process, my committee will continue to pursue every means possible to secure Mr. Ostreicher's safe return to his wife, children and grandchildren. And that is why we are holding this hearing.

President Morales is flying to Atlanta today for a meeting with former-President Jimmy Carter to ask for his assistance in negotiating land access through Chile to the Pacific Ocean.

While the Bolivian media is reporting on these events, I hope that they will also note that I am sending the former president the transcripts of the hearings that this subcommittee has held on the case of Jacob Ostreicher. I contacted the Carter Center earlier today to ask the former President Carter to intervene personally in Mr. Ostreicher's case. I was advised that Jacob's case is on the agenda today and would be raised.

It was very much a privilege to have Mr. Penn with us this week, not only because of the fame that he has rightly garnered through his Academy Award-winning acting, and not only because of the highly commendable assistance he is bringing to the suffering people in Haiti through the relief organization that he founded, but also because of the extraordinary assistance that he has provided to Mr.

Ostreicher, who he had never met and to whom he owed no obligation prior to being asked to assist with the case last fall. That assistance now includes joining us today to highlight Mr. Ostreicher's continued plight and to advocate for his freedom.

#### IN HONOR OF SHERRY POST

#### HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 22, 2013

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, Sherry Post of the 8th Congressional District of Pennsylvania is an outstanding and enterprising businesswoman who created a successful company that manufactures nutritional supplements in the Borough of Hatfield. The company, Simple Brandz, was recently certified as a veteran-owned business through the United States Veterans Administration, which will assist in its further growth by expanding business opportunities. She is an 8-year Army veteran, who is recognized as a dynamic entrepreneur and recently received the 2013 Women of Influence Community Achievement Award in the Greater Lehigh Valley. We commend her for outstanding achievement and also her goal of providing manufacturing jobs for other veterans in the region. We congratulate Sherry Post for setting an example of professional excellence and advocacy of women in business, as well as her commitment to the greater community.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF THE RETIREMENT OF REVEREND O.C. STIGGERS

#### HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 22, 2013

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask for the House's attention today to recognize Reverend O.C. Stiggers, who is retiring at the age of 85.

Pastor Stiggers was born in Chambers County, Alabama to the late John and Historia Williams Stiggers. Pastor Stiggers graduated from the Lanett School System. Afterwards, he attended the Columbus, Georgia branch of American Baptist Theological Seminary of Nashville, Tennessee. He also attended Moody's Bible College. He received his Doctorate of Divinity and his Doctorate of Laws.

Pastor Stiggers has served as the Executive Chair of the Western Union Missionary Baptist Association, as a member of the Board of Trustees of Mt. Calvary Baptist Association and a Dean of the Bryant Theological Seminary School in Hamilton, Georgia. Pastor Stiggers is also a former member of the Board of Trustees at Selma University in Selma, Alabama, and he is a former president of the Parent/Teachers Association.

Currently, Pastor Stiggers is a member of the Ebenezer Baptist Church in Lanett, Alabama. He also serves as Pastor of Ozias Ministry Baptist Church and Eastside Baptist Church.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to join Reverend Stiggers' friends, family, and congregation in wishing him the best after his retirement.

## RETIREMENT OF DEPUTY SERGEANT AT ARMS KERRI HANLEY

**HON. JOHN A. BOEHNER**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 23, 2013*

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the House of Representatives to pay tribute to Kerri Hanley, Deputy Sergeant at Arms, on the occasion of her retirement on June 30, 2013. Kerri Hanley has served the people's House with distinction since 1988, and her sound leadership, extensive institutional knowledge, and trusted guidance have been heavily relied upon by two Sergeants at Arms, House Leadership and Officers, and Members of Congress alike.

Kerri Hanley—a native of America's heartland, Mitchell, South Dakota—began her 25 years of service to the House of Representatives in 1988 with the Republican Leader of the House, Robert H. Michel of Illinois. She left the House briefly in 1989, to serve as Confidential Assistant to the Administrator, United States General Services Administration. However, she soon returned to the Office of the Republican Leader in August 1989, to serve as Deputy Press Secretary. In 1994, Leader Michel promoted her to Press Secretary and she remained in that position until he retired from the House of Representatives in January 1995. Hanley then joined the staff of incoming Sergeant at Arms Wilson Livingood as Executive Assistant. In January 2001, she was appointed Deputy Sergeant at Arms of the United States House of Representatives. As Deputy Sergeant at Arms, Ms. Hanley serves as chief of staff and together with the Sergeant at Arms she is responsible for the overall planning, organization, and implementation of all of the office's activities.

Kerri's commitment to this institution is second to none, clearly demonstrated by the variety of highly trusted positions she has held while serving the House of Representatives. Her keen insight and a practical, hands-on approach to problem solving, are the hallmarks of a consummate professional. Her natural sense of calm and whenever needed, a dose of good humor in stressful situations, have helped her to provide effective leadership and guidance during some of the most challenging times in this institution's history—in particular, 9/11 and the anthrax incident. Her tireless work over the years has helped shape the Office of the Sergeant at Arms into one of the most respected support organizations in Congress. She has much to be proud of as she reflects on her long and distinguished career, during which she has earned the respect and admiration of her peers.

I know her husband Jon—a long-time Capitol Guide Service employee who recently retired—and their two children, Christopher and Keli, are very proud of all of her accomplishments. While we are certainly sorry to see Kerri go, I am hopeful she will now be able to devote far more time to all of them in the months and years to come.

Please join me in commending the outstanding service of Kerri Hanley to the Congress of the United States and congratulating her on her retirement. On behalf of the U.S. House of Representatives we wish you well in all your future endeavors.

## TAIWAN-PHILIPPINES FISHERY DISPUTE

**HON. BLAKE FARENTHOLD**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 23, 2013*

Mr. FARENTHOLD. Mr. Speaker, last Thursday, May 9, 2013, a Taiwanese fishing vessel, the Guang Da Xing No. 28, was fired upon by a Philippine government vessel in waters 164 nautical miles southeast of Eluanbi, the southernmost part of Taiwan in waters considered by both Taiwan and the Philippines to be within Taiwan's 200 nautical-mile-from-shore Exclusive Economic Zone.

The Taiwanese fishing boat was severely damaged and suffered engine failure, causing it to float adrift. Crew member Hong Shicheng, a Taiwanese national, was shot and killed. The Philippine government vessel sailed away without offering any assistance.

A government vessel's shooting of an unarmed fishing boat is an act of violence, and is in violation of international law. Therefore, we call upon the Philippines to promptly and sincerely respond to the requests of the Taiwan government to apologize, punish the perpetrators, and provide proper compensation to the victim's family based on humanitarian grounds.

It is imperative that these two close and longstanding allies of the United States work together for an immediate and peaceful resolution of this incident. The circumstances that have given rise to such an incident must be addressed so as to guarantee as much as possible that such an incident will never happen again. Ultimately, this means the negotiation of an agreement or treaty on marine fishing between Manila and Taipei.

During this difficult time, we express our condolences to the family and friends of Mr. Hong.

REMEMBERING COMMANDER  
ROBERT EDWARD MAY**HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 23, 2013*

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Commander Robert Edward May. Commander May passed away late last year at the age of 88. He served in the United States Navy for over 25 years and worked for another 25 years as an engineer in process control in Honeywell, part of Phoenix, Arizona.

Mr. May had various interests from a young age. At 15, he was Rochester's 1939 Soap Box Derby Champ and flew his first solo airplane at the age of 16. At 20, he graduated from the US Naval Academy in three years, and his first orders were to be stationed on the Flagship USSN Nashville in the Pacific, surviving the largest naval battle in history. He witnessed a Kamikaze strike killing hundreds and injuring many more on Nashville's command center.

After returning to the US for repairs on the Nashville, Mr. May married his sweetheart Ruth Schlitzer. Together, they had 10 children. During that time, he sailed as Lieutenant and Lieutenant Commander aboard vessels in

Key West. He then attended the Naval Postgraduate School before earning a Master's in Science from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, writing a then classified dissertation on fire control for torpedoes in conjunction with the latest sonar.

After finishing his post-doctorate work, Mr. May was assigned to one of the largest and most successful projects ever completed, the Polaris Project. The Polaris nuclear missile placed on submarines was the first submerged launch missile to use thrust vectoring and on-board telemetry to guide the missile, changing the course of warfare. Mr. May also aided in the development of the TALOS missile system, and worked in the submarine Anti-Submarine Warfare.

After retiring from the Navy, Mr. May continued to do work for SAC and NELC through data control at Honeywell. While raising his 10 children, he was active in his community, as an organizer and volunteer at church, scouts, little league, and blood drives.

Mr. May's successes in the United States Navy and local communities across the country have strengthened our nation's Defense program. His dedication and passion to serve our country well will certainly be missed. I would like to extend my sincerest condolences to Commander May's family and friends as he will be laid to rest in Arlington National Cemetery in Virginia on April 23, 2013.

Family members include: Bill & Marsha May, John Fredrick May, Joanne Mell, Ruth & Schuyler Hoffman IV, Martin Hoffman, Schuyler Hoffman V, Eileen May, Cynthia & Karl Ponath, Quentin Ponath, Jim & Sugene (McClain) May, James May, Collin May, Ashton May, Don & Connie May, Harrison May, Kenny May, John & Chris Ann (Hardin) May, Caroline May, Daniel May, Ray & Delores Schlitzer, Pete Schlitzer, Marta Schlitzer, Tom Schlitzer, Mary Ann (Schlitzer) & Tom Maszerowski, Walter May, Christopher and Cynthia May, Bill and Gail Schults.

PASTOR VANDY S. POPE—50  
YEARS OF SERVICE**HON. PHIL GINGREY**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 23, 2013*

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Pastor Vandy S. Pope, on the 50th anniversary of his calling to serve his community through the word of God.

While he currently serves as pastor of New Life Apostolic Church in Cartersville, Georgia, Pastor Pope's vocation has taken him across the globe. Since he graduated Bible College in 1966, his sermons have been heard in 17 different countries, and the 3 States where he served as Pastor. In Georgia alone, Pastor Pope has served three separate communities, and touched countless lives.

1 Peter 4:10 says, "Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms."

All too often, we forget that our religious leaders take on roles that extend so much farther than that of a pastor. These chosen few work long hours, undertaking duties of educators, social workers, charity organizers, and counselors. Moreover, they are often by the

side of families and friends, as they face the challenge of laying a loved one to rest.

Mr. Speaker, it is with this in mind that I extend my most heartfelt thanks to Pastor Pope for accepting God's call to this challenging, yet critical profession for the future of our great Nation. On behalf of Georgia's 11th District, I congratulate him as he marks this most impressive achievement.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. JOHN A. YARMUTH

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 23, 2013*

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Speaker, during rollcall 179 on final passage of H.R. 3, the Northern Route Approval Act, my vote was incorrectly recorded as "yes." I intended to vote "no."

#### TRIBUTE TO THE CITY OF FONTANA, CALIFORNIA

#### HON. GARY G. MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 23, 2013*

Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute today to the City of Fontana, California, as their community celebrates 100 years of settlement.

Fontana has a rich history of hard work and ingenuity. From its humble roots as a rural community and agricultural town of citrus orchards, vineyards and chicken ranches astride historic Route 66, the city is now home to over 200,000 residents.

Since its incorporation in June of 1952, Fontana has grown to become a regional hub of the trucking industry, with Interstate 10 and State Route 210 transecting the city from east to west and Interstate 15 passing diagonally through its northwestern quadrant. Due to its prime location, the City is also home to a number of product distribution centers for large companies, including Target and Sears. Fontana is also the home of the Auto Club Speedway, which has hosted national racing events since 1997. The Speedway is the home of the Auto Club 400 race in the NASCAR Spring Cup Series, the NASCAR Nationwide Series Royal Purple 300, the IZOD Indy Car Series race, and numerous other local events. Fontana is also home to numerous industrial sales centers and commercial strip zoning such as "The Miracle Mile" and the Fontana Auto Center.

With a city theme of "open for business" and dedication to a "Healthy Fontana" lifestyle, the citizens of Fontana continually demonstrate their enthusiasm for their City by actively participating in local government and future city planning. It is indeed my pleasure to represent the residents of this beautiful city, who have contributed much of their time towards the betterment of their community.

Mr. Speaker, on this very special year for the City of Fontana, please join me in commemorating their one hundredth anniversary.

AUTHORIZING USE OF EMANCIPATION HALL FOR UNVEILING OF STATUE OF FREDERICK DOUGLASS

#### HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 23, 2013*

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to support S. Con. Res. 16, legislation authorizing the use of Emancipation Hall for the unveiling of a statue of Frederick Douglass.

Frederick Douglass was an historic figure, whose work and legacy continues to improve lives and help us form a more perfect union.

The battle he valiantly led in the 19th century for equal rights and dignity has yielded great results and his sage advice to agitate at every turn continues to inspire men and women into action.

With each passing generation the march toward freedom and equal opportunity is moving closer to full realization thanks in part to the actions of Frederick Douglass.

I have had the pleasure of meeting Nettie Washington Douglass, the great, great granddaughter of Frederick Douglass, who chairs the Frederick Douglass Foundation, and continues the difficult work he started.

I proudly joined with her in urging President Obama to issue posthumously the Presidential Medal of Freedom and I am proud to support this resolution to properly recognize this great man and all that he has given to our country.

#### HONORING JOHN C. TOY

#### HON. ANDY BARR

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 23, 2013*

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the accomplishments of Kentucky native John C. Toy, a true American patriot.

John C. Toy was born on August 14, 1918, in Montgomery County, Kentucky to Ella Lee and Edward Joseph Toy. Mr. Toy joined the Army in June, 1941, and was stationed at Schofield, Honolulu, Hawaii, in the anti-aircraft division. While there, he survived the bombing of Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941. He served in the Army until 1945 when he was Honorably Discharged with the rank of Staff Sergeant.

Since his military service to this country, Mr. Toy has remained active in his community by teaching Sunday school at the First Church of God in Mt. Sterling, serving on the Board at Mt. Sterling Swimming Pool and Park, as a Member and Past Commander American Legion Post 22, and as current President of the Kentucky Pearl Harbor Association.

Mr. Toy is married to Gerturde Fletcher of Bourbon County, and has been blessed with two daughters, Pam Ishmael and Sandy McDonald, as well as three grandchildren and four great grandchildren.

As a U.S. Congressman, I am forever grateful for John C. Toy's service to our country. Because of his bravery and that of his fellow men and women in uniform, our American freedoms are protected for future generations. Truly, he is a hero to us all.

HONORING DEPUTY SHERIFF TIM CAUSEY AND THE CAUSEY FAMILY

#### HON. TOM RICE

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 23, 2013*

Mr. RICE of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness that I recognize the Causey Family today, as they have lost a husband, father, son, and friend. Deputy Sheriff Tim Causey passed away on Sunday from complications he suffered from bravely fighting the devastating fire in Windsor Green this past March.

Beloved by family, friends, and co-workers, Mr. Causey served Horry County with a fervor and commitment that residents can only hope to find in a first responder. As we look back on his 25 years of service, his bravery and selflessness in times of crisis will not be forgotten.

On behalf of Horry County and the Seventh Congressional District of South Carolina, I ask that we remember today Deputy Sheriff Tim Causey for his service and ultimate sacrifice. Wrenzie and I hope that they may find peace in a time of sorrow, clarity in a time of distress, and strength through the support of family and friends.

#### CUMBERLAND CID 25TH ANNIVERSARY

#### HON. PHIL GINGREY

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 23, 2013*

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Cumberland Community Improvement District (CID), which is celebrating 25 years of fostering economic growth in Cobb County, Georgia.

First known as "Cobb County CID," Cumberland CID was launched in 1988 as the first program of its kind in the State of Georgia. Since then, the Cumberland economy has grown into one of the largest economic engines in the state, attracting companies like The Home Depot, GE Energy, Travelport, and many more. Because of their efforts, the Cumberland market now totals an estimated five percent of Georgia's overall economy, and has brought tens of thousands of jobs to Cobb County.

Not only has the Cumberland CID been critical to economic growth, but it represents hundreds of millions of dollars in state infrastructure project investments. Over the next 30 years, Cumberland CID will underscore their commitment to Georgia's economic future by investing \$133 million in community improvement projects.

Mr. Speaker, I extend my thanks to the hard-working people who make up the Cumberland CID, and who have played such an important leadership role in making Cobb County's economy flourish. On behalf of Georgia's 11th district, congratulations to Cumberland CID on 25 years of success, and here's to 25 more.



## OLDER AMERICANS MONTH

**HON. DANIEL B. MAFFEI**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 23, 2013*

Mr. MAFFEI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Older Americans Month.

Every year since 1963, May has been a month to honor older Americans and highlight the value that senior citizens contribute to our communities.

The theme for Older Americans Month 2013 is "Older Americans: Connecting the Community." Older Americans are more active in community life than ever before and continue to make a significant impact across the region. Our seniors are mentoring the leaders of tomorrow, taking to heart the need for intergenerational learning to guide and inspire young minds.

In my Congressional District, we are lucky to have many older Americans embracing their role in building connections for the community. I want to recognize individuals who were recently honored by the Cayuga County Legislature as Senior Citizens of the Year: Trudy Buxenbaum of Aurora, Joni Lincoln and Anita Messina of Port Byron, and Betty Miller of Auburn.

I appreciate this opportunity to recognize the accomplishments of older Americans in New York's 24th District and applaud the Cayuga County Office for the Aging for its efforts to enhance the quality of life for seniors and encourage them to share their lifetime of experience with those around them.

COMMEMORATING THE FIVE YEAR  
ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNLAW-  
FUL IMPRISONMENT OF THE  
IRANIAN BAHÁ'Í LEADERSHIP

**HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 23, 2013*

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my support for the Iranian Baha'i community, Iran's largest minority religion, and in commemoration of the five year anniversary of the unlawful imprisonment of its leadership, known as the Yaran-i-Iran, or "friends of Iran."

In 2008 the Iranian regime arrested seven members of the Yaran-i-Iran on several trumped up charges including espionage, propaganda activities against the Islamic order, the establishment of an illegal administration, cooperating with Israel, sending secret documents outside the country, acting against the security of the country, and "corruption on earth." Fariba Kamalabadi, Jamaloddin Khanjani, Afif Naeimi, Saeid Rezaei, Mahvash Sabet, Behrouz Tavakkoli, and Vahid Tizfahm were "tried" in a series of closed-door sessions from January to August 2010, during which they were denied meaningful access to their lawyers.

Shirin Ebadi, Nobel Peace Prize Laureate and a member of the group's legal team, has said that there is no evidence against them to sustain the charges. Nonetheless, all seven were sentenced to 20 years in prison—the longest of all prisoners of conscience in Iran. The conditions within the prison where they

are being held are appalling. Their unfortunate circumstance reminds us of the intolerant character and brutality of the current Iranian regime, not only towards the Baha'i, but also the Iranian population as a whole.

In conclusion, I want to reiterate my support for the Baha'i community in calling for the immediate release of the Yaran-i-Iran members, as well as the release of all Iranian prisoners of conscience. I will continue to monitor this situation and hold Iran accountable for its abuse of its citizens.

## HONORING MR. DANIEL SISTO

**HON. PETER T. KING**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 23, 2013*

Mr. KING of New York. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of myself and members of the New York delegation, Mr. BISHOP, Ms. CLARKE, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. GIBSON, Mr. GRIMM, Mr. HANNA, Mr. HIGGINS, Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. JEFFRIES, Ms. LOWEY, Mr. MAFFEI, Ms. MALONEY, Mr. MALONEY, Ms. MCCARTHY, Mr. MEEKS, Ms. MENG, Mr. NADLER, Mr. OWENS, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. REED, Mr. SERRANO, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. TONKO, and Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, I would like to recognize Daniel Sisto of The Healthcare Association of New York State (HANYS) for his many years of outstanding service to the cause of advancing health care delivery and improving the health of all New Yorkers.

Mr. Sisto is one of the nation's leading experts on health care public policy. Over the course of his nearly three decades as President of HANYS he has worked tirelessly to advance positive change in health care and achieve fairness and balance in resolving essential health policy issues. Because of his leadership, Mr. Sisto has helped establish HANYS as a valued, trusted voice on health policy matters in Washington, D.C., and in New York State.

Mr. Sisto has never been satisfied with the status quo. Recognizing the need to improve the health care delivery system to ensure efficient, high-quality care for all New Yorkers, he embraced patient-centered delivery system reform, worked to expand coverage, and has positioned HANYS as a leader in guiding quality improvement initiatives at hospitals and health systems across the state.

Under Mr. Sisto's guidance, HANYS has worked with hospitals, nursing homes, and other health care provider organizations in collaboratives, including the New York State Partnership for Patients, sharing best practices and facilitating the widespread adoption of proven clinical protocols to improve care delivery for all New Yorkers.

Mr. Sisto began his career in health care advocacy on Long Island, New York, as the Executive Vice President of the Nassau-Suffolk Hospital Council and former Deputy Director of the Nassau-Suffolk Health Systems Agency. Mr. Sisto holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Management and a Master of Business Administration degree in Marketing from St. John's University.

During his nearly three decades of distinguished work in health care, Mr. Sisto has repeatedly proven himself to be one of New York State's most respected advocates and

health care leaders and we, as New York's Delegation to the U.S. House of Representatives, wish him health and happiness in his retirement.

## HONORING CHRISTIAN THORNTON BRYAN

**HON. RALPH M. HALL**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 23, 2013*

Mr. HALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Christian Thornton Bryan, who graduated from Lehigh University in Bethlehem, PA on May 20, 2013.

Christian graduated with a degree in International Relations. He also participated in the ROTC program where he was selected to join the Lehigh Valley Steel Battalion. As a member of this Battalion, he competed in the 2nd Army ROTC Brigade's Ranger Challenge Competition and helped his team place third. He will now serve as an Infantry Officer in the United States Army and is assigned to Joint Base Lewis-McChord in Washington as an Infantry Platoon Leader.

Christian follows in the footsteps of his father, who serves as a Major in the U.S. Army Infantry. I am proud of this young man's decision to serve his country, and I know he will go above and beyond to uphold this duty.

I wish him the best of luck in the Army and in all his future endeavors. Mr. Speaker, I ask those present today to join me in honoring Christian Thornton Bryan.

RECOGNIZING SUPPORT OUR SOLDIERS FOR ITS UNWAVERING  
DEDICATION TO OUR TROOPS

**HON. ROGER WILLIAMS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 23, 2013*

Mr. WILLIAMS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding work and admirable service of a very special military support nonprofit in Texas—Support our Soldiers (SOS).

Led by Teresa Nelson, whose father served in the Army's 101st Airborne Division, SOS was founded to care for our troops at home and abroad with support they might otherwise not receive. SOS volunteers often create custom boxes to meet the unique needs of troops. Just this week, a Marine unit serving overseas received a shipment of pillows after SOS learned they had none. Since its establishment in June 2011, over 17,000 pounds of food and supplies have been sent overseas to benefit more than 500 soldiers.

Texans are always looking for ways to give back to the men and women of the United States armed forces, and SOS provides a wide range of opportunities for its surrounding communities to serve those who wear the uniform. Teresa and her team host monthly meetings with sell-out crowds and organize community events across 6 cities in Tarrant and Johnson County to raise awareness, funds, and support for our troops. Beyond collecting and distributing material goods, SOS also works with ROTC programs and students to teach them the importance of patriotism.

It's people like Teresa Nelson and organizations like Support our Soldiers who embody the American spirit of gratitude and generosity. Our nation is free today because of the selfless sacrifices of thousands of brave men and women who have answered the call of duty. We owe these troops and their families abundant support, whether it's food, shelter, clothing, or comfort. I commend SOS for their commitment to providing this much-needed support, and I am proud to know the wonderful leaders and volunteers of this great organization.

God bless our troops and God bless America.

#### HONORING THE LIFE OF JILLIAN DAGON ANDOLINA

##### HON. TOM REED

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 23, 2013

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of a truly courageous young woman, Jillian Dagon Andolina. Jill, 26, passed away on May 11, 2013 after a two-and-a-half-year battle with leukemia. She always carried a bright smile with her and was an inspiration for her parents, Dr. Richard and Molly Andolina, and for all those in our community who had the fortune of meeting her.

A resident of Arkport, New York, Jill graduated from Arkport Central School in 2005. She received an associate's degree from SUNY Alfred before continuing on to SUNY Geneseo where she earned a bachelor's degree in psychology in 2009. The diagnosis of leukemia interrupted her plan to acquire a master's degree in November of 2010.

Despite this setback, Jill persevered through chemotherapy and bone marrow transplants to remain an active member of the community. She was a member of the Hornell Association and the Arkport American Legion Post 1248 Auxiliary. The Hornell Humane Society and Relay for Life were also graced with her time and efforts.

Jill Andolina will be missed by all, but her legacy will continue to inspire. She touched the lives of hundreds of people and her spirit and determination motivate each and every one of us every day.

#### TRIBUTE TO PROVIDENCE HOSPITAL

##### HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 23, 2013

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a hospital system that has served as a beacon for 75 years in Columbia, South Carolina. Providence Hospital in the Palmetto State's capital city has provided extraordinary care and healing for three quarters of a century, earning it the appreciation and admiration of a grateful community.

Providence Hospital was founded in 1938 as an act of faith and charity. The vision behind the hospital came from Father Martin C. Murphy of St. Peter's Church, who wanted to bring the quality care that Catholic hospitals

provide to the Columbia area. With a generous donation from local businessman James B. Younginer, he was able to put a downpayment on an 18-acre tract of land. The final piece of the puzzle fell into place when the Sisters of Charity of St. Augustine in Ohio mortgaged their motherhouse in Cleveland in order to finance the new hospital. This was extraordinary considering the sisters had never been to Columbia.

Today Providence Hospital operates under the auspices of the Sisters of Charity Health System. Over the last 75 years, the non-profit organization has grown to provide 304 beds in four hospitals: Providence Hospital, Providence Heart & Vascular Institute, Providence Hospital Northeast and Providence Orthopaedic & Neuro Spine Institute. Providence Hospital is a faith-based health care facility that employs more than 1,900 caring individuals.

Providence Hospital is renowned as South Carolina's "heart hospital." Since 1974, Providence Heart & Vascular Institute physicians and staff have performed more cardiovascular procedures than any medical team in the state. It is recognized statewide as a referral center for the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of cardiovascular disease.

In 1985, Providence Hospital added a helicopter service to help bring critically ill patients to the facility to be treated. Today LifeNet South Carolina is a 24 hour a day airborne intensive care unit serving Providence and other facilities in the Carolinas and Georgia.

In 1999, Providence Hospital established a 46-bed community hospital in the Northeast area of Columbia. This facility offers a range of medical services in surgery, emergency care, women's and children's services and rehabilitation. Also located on this campus is the Providence Orthopaedic & Neuro Spine Institute, which offers an integrated continuum of care for orthopaedic and neurosurgical patients throughout the region.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my colleagues join me in congratulating Providence Hospital for its 75 years of compassionate health care. As the facility continues to grow and expand, I commend Providence for its commitment to improving the delivery of quality health care to the people of South Carolina and maintaining its focus on faith. Providence Hospital has become synonymous with exceptional patient care and embodying the values of respect, compassion, collaboration, courage and justice. I look forward to its continued service to the community and the Creator.

#### 5-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF PARKERSBURG TORNADO

##### HON. BRUCE L. BRALEY

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 23, 2013

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, May 25th, 2008, a devastating tornado ripped through northeastern Iowa. This was the strongest to hit Iowa in 32 years and the most powerful tornado in the United States that year, leaving a path of devastation throughout Iowa's First District. Five communities—Dunkerton, Hazelton, New Hartford, Lamont, and Parkersburg, Iowa—suffered massive damage. Eight people lost their lives, 50 busi-

nesses were destroyed, and thousands of homes were severely damaged.

Five years later, the memory of the tornado is still fresh in the minds of many Iowans. But tremendous progress has been made since then. Parkersburg is a model for recovery after a natural disaster. Through community service the town has rebuilt and come together to improve the lives of its citizens and its community.

I also want to acknowledge the tragic events in Oklahoma. The people of Iowa stand in solidarity with those affected by the devastation caused by the tornado. Our hearts and prayers go out to them. We take solace in knowing that if communities like Parkersburg can rebuild after such tragedy, then there is hope for the people of Oklahoma.

These communities have shown incredible strength and resolve in the face of such a terrible catastrophe. As we look to the future, we must never forget the service and sacrifice made by those who have rebuilt and revitalized Parkersburg.

#### HONORING OUR TROOPS AND VETERANS ON MEMORIAL DAY

##### HON. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 23, 2013

Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, with Memorial Day just around the corner, I rise to honor the memory of our brave men and women in uniform who have sacrificed their lives for our country in what Abraham Lincoln called "the last full measure of devotion."

At this weekend's parades, festivals, and barbecues, let's all pause for a moment to recognize the sacrifices of those who put themselves in harm's way so we don't have to.

Let's continue to support our troops on the battlefield, and let's make sure to support our veterans and their families when they return home. That means ensuring quality health care for the 61,000 veterans in New Mexico's First Congressional District, ending the unconscionable backlog of disability claims at the VA, and providing our veterans with good-paying jobs.

Our national heroes deserve nothing less.

#### HONORING ANDREW REID BRYAN

##### HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 23, 2013

Mr. HALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Andrew Reid Bryan, who will be graduating from Patriot High School in Nokesville, VA on June 13, 2013.

Andrew is a member of the National Honor Society and Future Business Leaders of America, a two-time Varsity Boy's Lacrosse team captain, and has earned All District Athletic Honors as well as All District Academic Honors. Andrew also made the academic honor roll for both his junior and senior years. He plans to continue his education at Stevenson University in Baltimore, Maryland, where

he will study Business Administration and play for the Men's Lacrosse team.

Andrew's achievements set a wonderful example for his peers around him, and I am confident he will have continued success. I wish him the best of luck in all his endeavors, both on and off the field. Mr. Speaker, I ask those present today to join me in honoring Andrew Reid Bryan.

#### PEACE FOR THAILAND

#### HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 23, 2013*

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, at 1.8 million people, Thailand is home to the third largest ethnic Malay population in the world. Since 2004, extremists in the country have been fighting the government for an independent state for the ethnic group. This has been one of the bloodiest conflicts in Southeast Asia and has left nearly 5,000 people dead.

According to the Combating Terrorism Center at West Point, in the past four years alone, more than 1,400 people have died and 3,200 have been wounded. The violence has killed indiscriminately. Fatalities have included soldiers, policemen, village leaders, monks, teachers, and innocent civilians. While most of those killed were the victims of shootings, there have also been nearly 600 improvised explosive device attacks and 40 beheadings since January 2009.

Thankfully, it is possible this cycle of violence could be coming to an end.

With the help of Malaysian mediators, the chairman of the Thai National Security Council and a representative of one of the Malay separatist groups active in the region, Barisan Revolusi Nasional (BRN), signed an agreement in February to formally begin peace talks. Reports indicate former Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra's started talks behind the scenes years ago that helped lead to this milestone agreement. He should be commended for those efforts.

Public peace talks between the government and the rebels will be a big step forward in solving the conflict in southern Thailand. While previous attempts have been made, this marks the first time that both sides have agreed in writing to hold talks.

Mr. Speaker, the progress that is slowly being achieved in southern Thailand is significant, and we should hope that it continues until there is lasting peace throughout the country. And that's just the way it is.

#### RECOGNIZING THE ROTARY CLUB OF NORTH CHICAGO AND THEIR 2013 HUMANITARIAN PATRIOT HONOREES

#### HON. BRADLEY S. SCHNEIDER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 23, 2013*

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the outstanding community service of the Rotary Club of North Chicago and to recognize this year's recipients of their Humanitarian Patriot Award.

Each year the Rotary Club in North Chicago, home of Naval Station Great Lakes, recognizes their Humanitarian Patriot honorees for their service to veterans. This year's recipients have all demonstrated an incredible sense of commitment to the men and women of our armed forces. They understand that veterans have sacrificed greatly for this country and deserve nothing but our highest gratitude and respect.

The Rotary Club was founded on the principle of service, and the Humanitarian Patriot Award is an inspiring extension of that original mission.

It is entirely fitting that this year's ceremony will be held at the Lovell Federal Health Care Center—an institution dedicated to caring for the brave members of our armed forces, veterans and their families.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate this year's recipients: Alan Belcher; Ken Duffy; Patricia Jones; Alain H. Oller, Donna E. King; Tom Marks; John Mrocza; the Navy League of the United States, Lake County Council; Paula Caraballido; William R. Beiersdorf; Gregory Padovani; Eli Williamson; Thomas Zengeler; and Jim Dolan.

But much more than that, I thank them for the incredible work they have done. Their service strengthens our communities, and I am grateful for the work of the Rotary Club of North Chicago and all of this year's honorees.

#### REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF ARLENE BILLAK

#### HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 23, 2013*

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember the extraordinary life of my friend and supporter Arlene Billak who sadly passed away on April 21, 2013. Arlene was born January 13, 1949, in Sharon, Pennsylvania to her loving parents Stan and Marie Izenas. Arlene was a graduate of Sharon High School and retired from State Farm Insurance as an office manager.

Arlene was a devoted wife and mother who provided constant love and support and was always willing to sacrifice her all for her family. Arlene was a woman of strength and humility who never refused to give up after being diagnosed with cancer. She courageously fought until her final days, always making sure that she had a smile on her face. Her loving heart and spirit will continue to be felt everyday by those who loved her and those she loved.

I would like to extend my deepest and heartfelt sympathies to Arlene Billak's family: her husband Rick, her son Damian, her two brothers Paul and Bob Izenas, and her two sisters Kathy and Irene. Rest assured the love and devotion she had for her family and friends will never be forgotten.

I have known Arlene and Rick for many years. They have been active in politics for decades. They were always there to support and push their candidates and those issues that improve the quality of life for those who have the least. Arlene believed that politics could make a positive difference in people's lives, and she showed us all how one person can make a difference. I will always remember the example she set and how she constantly

shared her upbeat and positive demeanor with the world. Our community, and all that knew her, are better because we crossed paths with Arlene Billak.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. JIM BRIDENSTINE

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 23, 2013*

Mr. BRIDENSTINE. Mr. Speaker, I wish to inform the House of Representatives that on May 21, 2013, I was unable to participate in three recorded votes due to my participation, along with the entire Oklahoma delegation, in a tour of tornado affected areas in and around Moore, Oklahoma.

I wish to submit for the record a summary of these bills, as well as statement on how I would have voted on each had I been present. I would also like to note that these are the only votes I have missed so far as a Member of Congress.

H.R. 1412, the Improving Job Opportunities for Veterans Act of 2013, passed the House by a vote of 416–0. Had I been present, I would have voted for H.R. 1412. The bill incentivizes private sector companies to participate in Veterans Administration (VA) on-the-job-training (OJT) training programs by reducing the level of employer contributions. It also requires the VA to enter into OJT agreements with other federal departments and agencies, which will encourage the federal government to hire veterans by fully leveraging available authorities. Finally, H.R. 1412 offsets any additional costs by extending for one month the VA's authority to pay reduced pensions to veterans using Medicaid-approved nursing facilities. According to the Congressional Budget Office (CBO), H.R. 1412 would reduce direct spending about \$14 million from FY14–FY18 and produce an "insignificant effect on discretionary spending."

H.R. 1344, the Helping Heroes Fly Act, passed the House by a vote of 413–0. Had I been present, I would have voted for this bill. H.R. 1344 directs the Department of Defense to develop processes to expedite airport screening for severely injured and disabled service members and veterans.

H.R. 324, to grant the Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the First Special Service Force, in recognition of its superior service during World War II, passed the House by a vote of 415–0. I co-sponsored this bill and I would have voted for it had I been present. The bill authorizes two Congressional Gold Medals for the First Special Service Force, a joint Canadian-U.S. special operations unit that served with distinction during WWII. The First Special Service Force was the precursor unit for both the U.S. and Canadian Special Operations forces.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF EXERCISE IS MEDICINE MONTH

#### HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 23, 2013*

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize May as Exercise is Medicine Month.

Physical inactivity is a fast-growing public health problem and contributes to a variety of chronic diseases and health complications, including obesity, diabetes, hypertension, cancer, depression and anxiety, arthritis, and osteoporosis. The Exercise is Medicine program seeks to reverse that trend. In addition to improving a patient's overall health, increasing physical activity has been shown to be effective in the treatment and prevention of chronic diseases. Beyond the benefits to individual health and quality of life, increased levels of physical activity are associated with lower health care costs, reduced environmental impact and other co-benefits.

Exercise is Medicine is an initiative focused on encouraging primary care physicians and other health care providers to include exercise when designing treatment plans for patients. Exercise is Medicine is committed to the belief that exercise and physical activity are integral to the prevention and treatment of chronic disease and should be regularly assessed as part of medical care. The U.S. Federal Physical Guidelines and many studies show that 150 minutes per week of moderate-intensity physical activity is required to achieve these health benefits.

During May, communities throughout the U.S. will hold activities that recognize physical activity and exercise—shown to help prevent and treat more than 40 chronic diseases—should be part of everyone's health care plan. Since 2010, Exercise is Medicine Month has been proclaimed by mayors, governors, Congress and the President. Individuals and organizations of all kinds, from youth groups to universities, churches, fitness centers, corporations and hospitals, hold events aimed at keeping people active and healthy.

I urge all Americans to recognize Exercise is Medicine month this May to build, support and advocate for physical activity as essential for global health and wellbeing by committing to action.

#### REMEMBERING ONE YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF THE SARTELL VERSO MILL FIRE

**HON. MICHELE BACHMANN**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 23, 2013*

Mrs. BACHMANN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in memory of the upcoming one-year anniversary of the tragic Memorial Day explosion and fire at the Verso Paper Mill in Sartell, Minnesota. Jon Maus, a father of four from Albany, Minnesota was tragically killed during the accident. This mill has been a fixture in the community for nearly a century, and its destruction and ultimate closure were devastating for hundreds of employees and their families.

One year later, the community is still working to recover from this setback. While many of the former workers have found jobs elsewhere or have gone back to school, quite a few are still searching for full-time employment. Our heart breaks for their struggle. But remember that when times are tough, Minnesotans band together. It is because of the love, support and friendship within the Sartell community that I know that they will overcome this tragedy.

The Maus Family and all those affected by the explosion and fire remain in my prayers. My staff and I will continue to work with local leaders and community members to make sure that they receive the support they need to get back to work.

#### NORTH KANSAS CITY SCHOOLS CENTENNIAL

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 23, 2013*

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating North Kansas City Schools for celebrating 100 years of providing exceptional education to our youth.

The North Kansas City School District 74 was founded on March 14, 1913. During the district's inaugural year, it employed a principal, an assistant, and taught 32 students in grades one through nine. By 1917, the school district was home to grades 1–12. As enrollment increased, the district voted to build a high school building that was dedicated on January 24, 1926.

After World War II, the district passed bond issues for long-range building programs. The enrollment swelled to 17,273 in 1963 due to the arrival of the baby boomers. Currently, the North Kansas City School District is home to 21 elementary schools, 5 middle schools, and 4 high schools. The newest of these is Staley High School, which was added in 2008.

North Kansas City Schools is a state and nationally accredited school district, and they are known for innovation and excellence. For example, they were the first local school district to provide laptops to their students and offer Apple technology-powered classrooms. They offer outstanding educational programs that no other area school district provides, including the International Baccalaureate Diploma.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me in applauding North Kansas City Schools for celebrating their 100th anniversary of providing extraordinary educational experiences to students in Clay County, Missouri. North Kansas City Schools is a true community partner, and I wish them 100 more years of greatness to come.

#### RECOGNIZING THE NORTH SYRACUSE FIRE DEPARTMENT'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. DANIEL B. MAFFEI**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 23, 2013*

Mr. MAFFEI. Mr. Speaker, I rise to extend my congratulations to the North Syracuse Fire Department on the occasion of its Centennial Celebration. I am honored to join the community in celebrating the Department on this historic occasion.

The North Syracuse Fire Department has changed significantly over the past 100 years. From having just two hand drawn chemical carts, to now operating with over a dozen fire and rescue vehicles, the North Syracuse Fire Department has been able to adapt to the

changing times. The North Syracuse Fire Department Operates out of two stations: Station 1, located at 109 Chestnut Street, and Station 2, located at 70 General Irwin Boulevard, both in North Syracuse, New York.

In 1913, a group of citizens living in the village of North Syracuse presented a petition to the Board of Supervisors of Onondaga County, asking that a fire district be established in North Syracuse. As a result, the North Syracuse Fire Department was founded and began its extraordinary service to the residents of North Syracuse. In 1950, the department moved to its new quarters in the old trolley station at the corner of South Bay Road and Church Street. In 1983, a new building was built on Chestnut Street. This was the first building in fire department history built solely for fire department use.

Despite the dramatic changes that have taken place over the past 100 years, a few things remain the same. The North Syracuse Fire Department continues its mission of Fire Prevention and Education, Fire Suppression, and the prevention of the loss of life. This mission continues that the department shall assist in any disaster, emergency, or occasion for which it is properly equipped. The Fire Department continues to be a central part of life for residents. Furthermore, for 100 years North Syracuse's finest have dedicated themselves to protecting their fellow citizens and making the community a safer place to live.

Mr. Speaker, we are grateful for the extraordinary service that the volunteers of the North Syracuse Fire Department have provided to residents of our community over the past century, and I ask this Honorable Body to join me in congratulating the members and supporters of the North Syracuse Fire Department and wishing them good luck in the next 100 years.

#### HONORING OFFICERS OF THE ST. PETERSBURG POLICE DEPARTMENT AND THE U.S. MARSHAL'S SERVICE FOR RECEIVING THE CONGRESSIONAL BADGE OF BRAVERY

**HON. C. W. BILL YOUNG**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 23, 2013*

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Officer Jeffrey Yaslowitz, Sergeant Thomas Baitinger, Sergeant Karl Lounge, Officer Timothy McClintick, Officer Max McDonald, and Officer Douglas Weaver of the St. Petersburg Police Department and U.S. Deputy Marshal Scott Ley for being awarded the Congressional Badge of Bravery.

The Congressional Badge of Bravery was established to honor exceptional acts of bravery in the line of duty by federal, state, and local law enforcement officers. In award year 2012, only 16 Badges of Bravery were awarded.

On January 24, 2011, Officer Yaslowitz, Officer McClintick, and Marshal Ley attempted to apprehend a violent fugitive in St. Petersburg, Florida.

Officer Yaslowitz and Marshal Ley courageously engaged the suspect, who was hiding in an attic. While attempting to handcuff the suspect, Officer Yaslowitz was shot and killed. Marshal Ley was also shot and severely

wounded. Officer McClintick was able to pull Marshal Ley from the kill zone while coming under fire himself.

Immediately, a Rapid Response Team comprised of Sergeant Baitinger, Sergeant Lounge, Officer MacDonald, and Officer Weaver was formed. Sergeant Baitinger, a Rapid Response Instructor, volunteered to lead the team into the house to rescue of his fellow officers and was fatally wounded.

Officer Weaver dropped his weapon and attempted to recover the body of Officer Yaslowitz, but was driven back by the gunfire and was wounded himself. He then helped Officer MacDonald move Officer McClintick and Marshal Ley to safety. Officer Weaver was then able to move Sergeant Baitinger's body out of the house along with Sergeant Lounge and Officer MacDonald.

On that January evening, it pained me to take to the House floor to inform my colleagues of the tragedy that had occurred. As I stated that day, "This is a sober reminder that the men and women who serve us as law enforcement officers put their lives on the line every day. It is also a good time to say thank you for all those who serve us in uniform at home or abroad."

Sergeant Baitinger and Officer Yaslowitz made the ultimate sacrifice while serving their community and now have their names inscribed on the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial in Washington, D.C. Marshal Ley, Sergeant Lounge, Officer MacDonald, Officer Weaver, and Officer McClintick all showed tremendous bravery in the line of fire. Because of their selfless actions, these law enforcement officers earned the Congressional Badge of Bravery.

#### IN HONOR AND MEMORIAM OF STANLEY WILSON, A COURAGEOUS DALLAS FIREFIGHTER

##### HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 23, 2013*

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of fallen Dallas firefighter Stanley Allen Wilson.

Stanley worked selflessly alongside his fellow firefighters and was an exemplary example of steadfast commitment to bettering, protecting and saving lives. When others run away, the brave men and women who serve as our first responders rush in. Stanley Wilson was no different. Responding to a massive six alarm fire, he answered the call of duty and made the ultimate sacrifice to keep our community safe.

Stanley, a lifelong native of Dallas, Texas, was a 1979 graduate of Lake Highlands High School and attended the University of Texas. As a 28-year veteran of the Dallas Fire Department, Stanley served proudly at Dallas Fire Station #53 in Lakewood.

Stanley's life reflected his love for family and community. He was a devout Christian, dedicated husband and father, and a true public servant. Whether it was serving his church community at Park Cities Baptist Church, serving his sons as the quartermaster for Boy Scout Troop 890, or serving the City of Dallas as a firefighter, Stanley held true to his principles and never wavered in his loyalty to those around him.

Stanley Wilson is survived by his wife of 20 years, Jenny and his two sons Noah and Luke.

I am privileged to honor this fellow Boy Scout Leader and commend him for "leaving his campsite better than he found it." Stanley Wilson will be greatly missed. May the peace of God be with those he loved and sustain them through this hour of sorrow.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF NATIONAL ARTHRITIS MONTH

##### HON. PATRICK MEEHAN

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 23, 2013*

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of National Arthritis Month. Arthritis is a disease that affects more than 50 million Americans of all ages including some residents of Pennsylvania's 7th District. Arthritis includes more than 100 joint diseases that can affect the entire body, causing severe pain for many. While questions still remain, I am encouraged by the cutting edge research being conducted on arthritis, particularly at the NIH. Early diagnosis and disease management can help prevent long term pain for individuals living with arthritis and their families. As May draws to a close, let us continue to raise awareness of arthritis, remembering the individuals living with the disease every day.

#### A TRIBUTE TO WWII VETERAN JERRY LUPTAK

##### HON. DAVE CAMP

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 23, 2013*

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Jerry Luptak, a Michigan resident, a veteran, and a hero of one of World War II's most infamous battles—the "Battle of the Bulge."

Jerry began his military career in the ROTC at Michigan State University. His group was called into duty and assigned to the 36th Infantry division. Upon landing in Italy, he and his unit fought through southern France, advancing the Allied line.

During the Battle of the Bulge, Jerry served as a 2nd Lieutenant in the 131st Field Artillery Battalion. He was positioned as a forward Artillery Observer on a bridgehead on the German side of the river, the very front of the Allied line. From his position in the fourth floor of a building, Jerry saw the enemy advancing with an overwhelming force of troops and tanks. Thinking quickly, Lieutenant Luptak called for his fellow troops to take cover, then called in an artillery barrage on the German advance. Still exposed in his fourth floor position, Jerry put his own life in danger to give the American forces their only chance at avoiding defeat. His quick decision-making and bravery proved successful, and the artillery barrage defeated the German advance.

Lieutenant Luptak was awarded a silver star for his gallantry in action. According to his citation, Jerry "effectively directed artillery fire was of material aid in crushing enemy attacks." This battle was an important stepping

stone in halting the German opposition during World War II.

Jerry's vast combat experience and tactical knowledge provided vital tools to the United States Armed Forces. In addition to his silver star, he also received the American Theater Service Medal, German Occupation Medal, and the European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal.

As Memorial Day approaches, all Americans should remember our brave servicemen and women, like Jerry Luptak, who dutifully and nobly answered the call to service for our nation, and the debt of gratitude we owe to them. On behalf of Michigan's 4th Congressional District, the Members of the Michigan Congressional Delegation, and all Americans, I thank Jerry Luptak for his dedicated and selfless service, and bravery in the face of the enemy.

#### RECOGNIZING THE DEDICATION AND SERVICE OF CHAPLAIN DAVID L. GIBSON OF NORTH- WEST FLORIDA

##### HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 23, 2013*

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the dedication and service of Chaplain David L. Gibson upon the occasion of his retirement. Chaplain Gibson is a proud resident of the Gulf Coast, where he is retiring after serving his nation with honor and distinction as Command Chaplain and Protestant Chapel Pastor at Naval Air Station Pensacola.

Chaplain Gibson was born in Mableton, Georgia, and began serving his community at an early age through religious education. He acted as a minister of Youth, Music, and Christian Education at numerous churches, first as an intern and ultimately as director of a tri-city area based in Midland, Michigan. After receiving his Bachelor's degree in Christian Education in 1980 and his Masters in Divinity in 1983, Chaplain Gibson was ordained in July 1984 and commissioned as an officer in the United States Navy.

Chaplain Gibson led his military communities spiritually in posts as Chaplain or Command Chaplain in Naples, Italy; Norfolk, Virginia; Yorktown, Virginia; and Beaufort, South Carolina; before arriving in Pensacola to serve in 1998. While assigned to Naval Air Station Pensacola as the Assistant Department Head of the Naval Education and Training Professional Development Command, he designed and delivered over two hundred professional development courses. For his dedication and exceptional service, Chaplain Gibson was awarded the Navy-Marine Corps Commendation Medal and the Meritorious Service Medal. Following his promotion to Commander in 2003, Chaplain Gibson moved to serve at the Navy Chaplains School in Newport, Rhode Island for three years before returning to Naval Air Station Pensacola. In a further testament to his devotion to education, he earned his Doctorate of Strategic Leadership from Regent University in 2006.

During his career, Chaplain Gibson founded the Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training Program. Today, this program is the standardized training that all chaplains and other Navy

leaders receive in order to effectively deal with suicide situations. Further, he worked extensively on combat operation stress, particularly with its diagnosis and response. He co-authored a chapter in a 2012 Marine Corp University textbook on combat operation stress titled, "Spiritual Injuries: Wounds of the American Warrior on the Battlefield of the Soul." He was also instrumental in training chaplains on how to minister to these hidden wounds. As a pastor and an educator, Chaplain Gibson has had an enormous impact on our Armed Services both in Northwest Florida and throughout the United States.

From an early age, Chaplain Gibson learned the importance of serving God and his community. It is evident that this dedication has remained over the years, and thousands have been touched by his presence and service.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, it gives me great pride to honor the selfless service of David L. Gibson. My wife Vicki joins me in wishing David, his wife Tami, and their children, Zachary and Micah, all of the best.

## NORTHERN ROUTE APPROVAL ACT

SPEECH OF

### HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 22, 2013*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3) to approve the construction, operation, and maintenance of the Keystone XL pipeline, and for other purposes:

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Chair, I rise today in astonishment that the House even had to consider H.R. 3, the Northern Route Approval Act. Now, I'm a cosponsor of this bill and I strongly supported its passage yesterday in the House. But we wouldn't need to pass it if the Administration would've green-lighted the Keystone XL pipeline like it should have long ago. For more than seventeen-hundred days, Americans have waited for the Administration to approve this pipeline. We have waited long enough for 20,000 new jobs—600 of which would be created in my home state of Iowa. We have waited for \$20 billion to be added to the economy, much of it in the Midwest and Iowa. And we have waited for more than 800,000 barrels of North American oil per day to be carried to U.S. refineries—to help fuel our economy. The State Department has found twice that this pipeline would have a limited impact on the environment. Labor groups support its construction. And seventeen Senate Democrats endorsed it earlier this year by helping to pass a budget amendment approving the pipeline. Approval of the Keystone XL pipeline means jobs, a boost to the economy and greater American independence when it comes to energy.

So today, Mr. Chair, I urge our colleagues in the U.S. Senate, in the strongest possible terms, to consider and pass this bill as soon as possible—but I also urge the Administration to stop hitting the snooze button on real chances to create American jobs and energy independence.

## HONORING THE VETERANS OF THE MAY 23, 2013 HONOR FLIGHT OF THE QUAD CITIES

### HON. DAVID LOEBSACK

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 23, 2013*

Mr. LOEBSACK. Mr. Speaker, today, over ninety Iowa veterans of World War II and the Korean War will travel to our Nation's Capital. Together, they will visit the monuments that were built in their honor by a grateful Nation.

We owe these heroes a debt of gratitude. For many, today will be the first time they will see the National World War II Memorial and the Korean War Veterans Memorial. I can think of no greater honor than to be able to greet them and thank Iowa's—and our Nation's—heroes for their service to our country.

That is why I am deeply honored to join them for their visit to the National World War II Memorial to personally thank these heroes for their service to our Nation and to pay tribute to the incredible sacrifice they made for our country.

We owe these heroes a debt of gratitude and the Honor Flight demonstrates that we as a State and as a country will never forget the debt we owe those who have worn our Nation's uniform. As a reminder of the service and sacrifice of the Greatest Generation, I am proud to have a piece of marble in my office from the quarry that was used to build the World War II Memorial. Our World War II and Korean War veterans rose to defend not just our Nation, but the freedoms, democracy, and values that make our country the greatest Nation on earth. They did so as one people and one country. Their sacrifices and determination in the face of great threats to our way of life are both humbling and inspiring.

I am tremendously proud to welcome the Honor Flight of the Quad Cities and Iowa's veterans of World War II and the Korean War to our Nation's Capital today. On behalf of every Iowan I represent, I thank them for their service to our country.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. SEAN P. DUFFY

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 23, 2013*

Mr. DUFFY. Mr. Speaker, last week, the needs of my constituents took me away from D.C. and my work here in this Chamber. Though this absence was excused, I would like the record to show my support for legislation which was passed to repeal the misguided and over-burdensome health care law known as Obamacare, and two bills which increase analysis of new and existing regulations and strengthen our local financial institutions. I have supported these pieces of legislation in the past, and would have voted for them had I been here.

That being said, last week, a devastating forest fire—the largest Wisconsin has seen in 33 years—hit the northwest corner of my district in Douglas County. I was grateful to be back home to evaluate the damage, offer assistance to those who suffered loss and personally thank the first responders. By the

grace of God, and with the help of many selfless first responders and firefighters, no one was injured and the destruction was limited. I was inspired by neighbors coming together to help each other, and was proud to see governments at the local, State, and Federal level respond quickly and effectively. I commend all those who stepped up and took charge in this situation, and my staff and I will continue to offer our assistance in any way we can.

## HONORING WHITNEY COY AND OTHER MEMBERS OF FIREWIVES.COM

### HON. STEVE STIVERS

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 23, 2013*

Mr. STIVERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a group of my constituents from Lancaster, Ohio, who pulled together to make a difference in the wake of an explosion at a fertilizer plant in West, Texas that injured hundreds and killed at least 14 people.

Of those lost in the explosion on April 17, many were firefighters from different departments who responded to the fire and explosion. When the wives of Lancaster firefighters and members of "Firewives.com" heard about what happened, they knew something had to be done.

Whitney Coy and the other members of "Firewives.com" formed a committee to fundraise for the West, Texas Volunteer Fire Department. Their group has grown to roughly 350 members since April. The group's original goal was to sell 150 T-shirts, which they sold in the very first day. So far, they have sold more than 850 t-shirts and raised more than \$7,500 for West, Texas.

The money raised by our neighbors in Lancaster will be used to purchase new equipment to help protect firefighters in West, Texas. I am confident that Whitney Coy and her team played a very important role in ensuring the new equipment could be purchased.

Again, I am thankful for Whitney Coy's hard work in helping the people of West, Texas. I ask that all Members of Congress stand with me to recognize her, and her team, for their acts of selflessness and kindness.

## CONGRATULATING THE COM- MITTEE OF 100 ON THE FEDERAL CITY ON ITS 90TH ANNIVERSARY

### HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 23, 2013*

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating The Committee of 100 on the Federal City on its 90th anniversary and for its work in promoting the District of Columbia's distinction, beauty, and grace as a community.

Founded in 1923 by Frederic A. Delano under the auspices of the American Civic Association, the Committee of 100 was formed to sustain and to safeguard the fundamental values for establishing strong standards for parks, monuments, public buildings, and scenic vistas far beyond the monumental core of

Washington, D.C. Today, the Committee of 100 acts as a force of conscience in the evolution of the nation's capital city, engaging in the planning processes for the development of significant large sites in the District, including the Southwest Waterfront, St. Elizabeths, Walter Reed and the McMillan Reservoir.

For 90 years the Committee of 100 has continued to work to ensure that what is built—or not built—in the nation's capital reflects the historical significance of the District and its diverse, growing population. We appreciate the Committee 100 for its long presence in the District and its continued service to the ever-changing landscape of the District, and we wish them many more years of outstanding service.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in celebrating the 90th anniversary of Committee of 100 on the Federal City.

### FULL HMTF UTILIZATION RESOLUTION

**HON. JANICE HAHN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 23, 2013*

Ms. HAHN. Mr. Speaker, our ports are a vital part of our nation's economy. They move more than 2.3 billion tons of cargo a year in the United States, generating economic activity that touches every Congressional district in the country.

Our ports are more than just gateways, they are engines—for the economy and for jobs.

Unfortunately, our nation's ports and harbors are severely under-dredged and under-maintained. According to a recent report by the American Association of Port Authorities, full channel dimensions are available less than 35% of the time.

We need to keep our ports strong. And so in 1986, we came up with a way to fund strong, fully dredged and well maintained ports and harbors, by assessing a tax on the goods imported through U.S. ports. That Harbor Maintenance Tax collects roughly \$1.6 billion a year: plenty of money to keep our ports and harbors the best in the world.

Yet as our ports suffer from historic under-dredging and lack of investment, we continue to spend only half of the funds we collect with the Harbor Maintenance Tax on maintaining our harbors.

We have an \$8 billion dollar surplus sitting in the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund. That's outrageous.

When our ports have such a clear need, when we have such a desperate need for the jobs that the work of dredging and modernizing our ports would create, it is scandalous that we will not fully utilize the funds we have collected for that very purpose.

I am introducing this resolution because we need to fully utilize the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund. The wind in Congress is shifting, and I believe that we will pass legislation to achieve that. The Army Corps of Engineers needs to prepare to put people to work fixing our ports the day after the President signs that bill into law.

### A TRIBUTE TO THE IOWA ELK'S ASSOCIATION

**HON. TOM LATHAM**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 23, 2013*

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize the great work of the Iowa Elk's Association for their efforts to make the reunion of Marine Sergeant Ross Gundlach and his former combat partner, a yellow Labrador named Casey, a reality. Their dedication to this great event has truly changed two deserving lives.

In Afghanistan, Sergeant Gundlach and Casey were deployed on more than 125 missions to detect and clear suspicious packages along military convoy routes. Sergeant Gundlach and Casey's great work no doubt saved American lives as they were able to detect improvised explosive devices along the road and contain them before they could harm US Marines aboard the convoy. As their tour of duty concluded, Sergeant Gundlach made a promise to Casey he would do everything in his power to find her and care for her when they returned to America.

Upon returning home, Sergeant Gundlach, a Wisconsin native, was able to locate Casey, who had been acquired to continue her work detecting bombs in Iowa on behalf of the State Fire Marshal's Office. He reached out to Casey's new handler via email in an attempt to adopt Casey, often relaying photographs and stories of their service together. Unfortunately, hope for a reunion looked dim as the State Fire Marshal's Office would require \$8,500 to acquire a replacement dog equipped to inspect venues for explosives should Casey's position be vacated.

To make this reunion happen, the Iowa Elk's Association, a fraternal organization with a proud history of assisting our veterans, graciously donated the full sum required to the State of Iowa to purchase a new explosive detection K-9. Governor Terry Branstad accepted the gift request and Sergeant Gundlach was unknowingly invited to Iowa under the pretense he would have to present his case for the adoption of Casey to a bureaucratic state board. Instead, the Iowa Elk's generosity supported a heartwarming surprise ceremony in Iowa's Capitol to formally reunite this remarkable veteran and his faithful companion after 333 days of separation. The selfless efforts of the Governor's Office, the State Fire Marshal's Office, and the Iowa Elk's Association left few dry eyes as Casey greeted her old friend and new adoptive parent.

Mr. Speaker, in an increasingly chaotic and unpredictable world, it can seem good news is harder and harder to come by. Yet, the actions of the Iowa Elk's Association and the State of Iowa as a whole to do the right thing in such a remarkable fashion is a testament to our state and nation's innate optimism and gratitude to our servicemembers. It is with great pride that I invite my colleagues in the House to join me in thanking all those involved in this heartwarming event and wishing both Sergeant Gundlach and his dog Casey a long and happy future as the friends they have been from day one.

### CONGRATULATING NOREEN SALAH BURPEE

**HON. LOIS FRANKEL**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 23, 2013*

Ms. FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Noreen Salah Burpee on winning the Ellis Island Medal of Honor. Ms. Burpee is an outstanding member of our community, and I am proud to represent her in Florida's 22nd District.

The Ellis Island Medal of Honor recognizes American immigrants who make extraordinary contributions to the community, and Ms. Burpee has certainly earned this distinction. As the executive director of The Salah Foundation, she helps distribute millions of dollars to small nonprofits nationwide, while helping those nonprofits maximize their funds and fulfill their missions. Many of the Salah Foundation's beneficiaries are right here in Palm Beach and Broward Counties. For example, she worked with nonprofit Broward Health Systems, helping them mobilize more than \$1 million to improve cancer-treatment facilities and marketing efforts.

In honor of her Ellis Island Medal of Honor, I am proud to recognize Noreen Salah Burpee for her amazing achievements and wish her continued success in her endeavors.

### HONORING DICK WEAVER FOR HIS SERVICE TO OUR COUNTRY

**HON. HOWARD COBLE**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 23, 2013*

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, as we approach Memorial Day 2013, I hope that everyone spends some time this holiday to honor the men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice to preserve our nation's freedoms. We also need to thank those who serve today in harm's way for their dedication to the ideals and principles that made this country great.

I would like to take this opportunity to tell the story of one such man who performed heroic feats on the battlefield, and thankfully, is still with us today so that we may honor him for his service. That man is named C.W. (Dick) Weaver, Jr., and he lives in the Sixth District of North Carolina.

Dick Weaver is a man who was destined to receive honors for his leadership ability in many aspects of his life. He graduated in 1951 from Rankin High School in Guilford County, North Carolina, where he was Valedictorian and President of the Senior Class. As an athlete at Rankin, he was All Conference for two years in baseball and football. He then attended Lees McRae Junior College until he became a United States Marine. Dick was shipped overseas to join the Korean Conflict.

On March 28, 1953, Sergeant Weaver was subject to devastating enemy artillery fire. The unit received word that one of the men had been wounded and was lying helpless and unprotected. Under heavy artillery fire, Sergeant Weaver rushed to the stricken man and carried him to cover. He was painfully injured in his heroic act of courage. Sergeant Weaver, by his outstanding leadership, indomitable



courage, and selfless efforts on behalf of another, served to inspire all who observed him and upheld the highest tradition of the United States Naval Services. For his action, he was awarded the Silver Star and Purple Heart by the President of the United States.

Sergeant Weaver spent 11 months in a military hospital for his wounds. Joseph J. McCaffrey, in a letter to Sergeant Weaver's mother wrote, "that his action inspired his men to get the wounded men out of danger." McCaffrey added, "that he literally walked into an artillery barrage and certain death."

Dick Weaver returned to Lees McRae and was graduated in 1957. He was student body president, Phi Beta Kappa, Best All-Around Student, Most Valuable Player in baseball, and the recipient of a prestigious Morehead Scholarship to the University of North Carolina, from where he was graduated in 1959.

After serving in personnel positions at Cone Mills, General Dynamics, and Duke University, Dick founded and served as president of Dick Weaver Associates from 1975 to 1995, and his company was rated by the College and University Personnel Association as one of the top three in the nation.

Dick Weaver has been a friend of mine for decades. As youngsters, we competed against each other on the ball fields of Piedmont North Carolina. In all the years that I have known Dick, I never really knew of the heroism he displayed in Korea. Dick is a humble and self-effacing gentleman who doesn't seek out the glory. I wanted to take this moment, as we celebrate Memorial Day 2013, to honor Dick Weaver and the countless others just like him who serve our country with dignity and distinction.

#### HONORING KAYLEIGH FAAS

##### HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 23, 2013

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I am privileged to interact with some of the brightest students in the 22nd Congressional District who serve on my Congressional Youth Advisory Council. I have gained much by listening to the high school students who are the future of this great nation. They provide important insight into the concerns of our younger constituents and hopefully get a better sense of the importance of being an active participant in the political process. Many of the students have written short essays on a variety of topics and I am pleased to share these with my House colleagues.

Kayleigh Faas is a sophomore at Needville High School in Fort Bend County, Texas. Her essay topic is: In your opinion, what role should government play in our lives?

#### THE POSITIVE POWER OF GOVERNMENT

What role should government play in our daily lives? In my opinion, government should be a structured framework for our education system, economy, and healthcare programs. In hopes of creating a "more perfect union", our founding fathers strived to create a fair and just system to serve Americans.

We depend on our government to protect its citizens. Government affects all human activity. Some of the important groups are consumers, workers, investors, and the envi-

ronment. The Constitution was designed to defend our "lives, liberties and pursuits of happiness". Only the government has the power to maintain these rights.

Government itself is valuable and beneficial to Americans. It is a powerful force in forming and maintaining a strong society. Citizens have different relationships with their government whether it be at the federal, state, or local level. In my opinion, people should support their governmental systems and view them as an institution rather than an administration. We may not agree with elected officials on all issues, but should work together with them to better our nation. We are lucky to live in a democratic society where we have a voice and the right to vote for our leaders of choice.

We should have a positive attitude towards our democratic government. As stated in our Constitution, our forefathers created our government in order to create a more perfect union and to defend and promote the welfare and tranquility of our citizens. These are assurances that most of the world's countries wish they could achieve.

Government, in my opinion, is valuable and beneficial to all citizens and should continue to positively affect various aspects of our lives on a daily basis. Our government is the only entity that can help us grow together as a strong and healthy nation. It provides the foundation for our economic growth. It also positively impacts our education system and promotes a higher level of competency which results in better lives. Other nations look to our form of government as a model for shaping and bettering their own. Our government has a vital and indispensable role to play in continuing to improve the lives of all Americans. We, as responsible citizens, must support our government system, because after all, WE have created it.

#### HONORING WOMEN OF INFLUENCE

##### HON. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 23, 2013

Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor 32 women who were recognized as New Mexico "Women of Influence" for 2013.

It is important to highlight women in our communities who are achieving incredible success as local business and community leaders. Albuquerque Business First partnered with the local business community to evaluate a record number of nominations for the Women of Influence awards.

I understand the challenges of being a small business owner and overcoming hurdles that are all-too-common for women in a male-dominated culture. I appreciate and applaud this year's honorees, each of whom has contributed to the state of New Mexico in unique and exiting ways.

New Mexico's Women of Influence include CEO's, educators, entrepreneurs, and leaders in financial services, government, health and fitness, non-profits and technology firms.

#### BUSINESS SERVICES

Virginia R. Dugan, Esquire, Atkinson & Kelsey, P.A.; Annette Gardiner, President, New Mexico Gas Company; Debra P. Hicks, PE/LSI, President and CEO, Pettigrew & Associates, P.A.; Jennifer Hise, Vice President, CEMCO, Inc.; Laurie Monfietto, Vice President of Human Resources, PNM Resources;

Dorothy Stermer, Manager, Sandia National Laboratories; Dr. Sandra Taylor-Sawyer, Director, NM Small Business Development Center, CEO, Dream Givers, LLC, Independent Associate, LegalShield.

#### EDUCATION

Barbara Bergman, Interim Dean, University of New Mexico School of Law; Marilyn Melendez Dykman, Director, University of New Mexico Veterans Resource Center; Dr. Viola E. Florez, Professor and PNM Education Endowed Chair, University of New Mexico College of Education.

#### ENTREPRENEUR

Sherry M. Keeney, President/CEO, PECOS Management Services, Inc.; Janice J. Lucero, CEO/Owner, MVD Express; Susan MacLean, President & CEO, The Solutions Group; DeAnn Sena O'Connor, Creative Director, dso creative.

#### FINANCIAL SERVICES

Karen M. Bard, Wealth Management Advisor, Merrill Lynch; Dohnia Dorman, MBA, VP of Marketing, Rio Grande Credit Union, Part-Time Adjunct Lecturer II, UNM; Tammy S. Jaramillo, Director of Administration, Burt & Company CPAs, LLC.

#### GOVERNMENT

Mary Ann Chavez-Lopez, Executive Director, El Camino Real Housing Authority; Ann Lerner, Film Liaison, City of Albuquerque; Katherine Carroll Martinez, Director, Construction Industries Division/Manufactured Housing Division, Regulation and Licensing Department, State of New Mexico.

#### HEALTH/FITNESS

Kristie Bair, J.D., President, Bair Medical Spa; Gayle Dine'Chacon, MD, Surgeon General, Navajo Nation, Associate Professor, UNM School of Medicine; E. DeAnn Eaton Azar, CEO, Haverland Carter Lifestyle Group; Kim E. Hedrick, Vice President Strategic Business Development, University of New Mexico Medical Group, Inc.; Mary G. Martinez, Franchise Owner/CEO, Home Instead Senior Care; Dawn Tschabrun, COO, Chief Nursing Officer, Lovelace Regional Hospital-Roswell.

#### NONPROFIT

Andrea Fisher Maril, CEO, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northern New Mexico; Kathy Mechenbier, Founder and president of the board, El Ranchito de los Ninos Inc.; Carol Wight, CEO, New Mexico Restaurant Association.

#### TECHNOLOGY

Marjorie M.K. Hlava, President and chairman, Access Innovations Inc.; Caroline Dennis, Cyber Security and STEM education consultant; Elizabeth J. (Lisa) Kuuttila, President and CEO, STC.UNM.

I congratulate these women leaders and thank them for their contributions to New Mexico.

#### A TRIBUTE TO ACACIA SCOTT

##### HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 23, 2013

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Acacia Scott for being named a 2013 recipient of the Dorothy Andrews Kabis Memorial Internship by the National Federation of Republican Women.

The Dorothy Kabis Internship is named after former National Federation of Republican Women President who served from 1963–1967 before being appointed as the United States Treasurer by President Nixon. This Memorial Internship Program is a highly selective program that offers just three young women from across the nation the chance to work in the headquarters of this prominent women's political organization in our national's capital. This program is reserved for undergraduate college students that display a keen knowledge of government and a strong interest in politics.

Mr. Speaker, Acacia's ability to be named to just one of three nationwide internships by the National Federation of Republican Women speaks volumes to her abilities and renowned Iowa work ethic. It is an honor to represent future leaders like Acacia from the great state of Iowa in the United States Congress and I invite my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating her for receiving this prestigious designation. I wish her the best of luck in her future studies and career.

AUTHORIZING USE OF EMANCIPATION HALL FOR UNVEILING OF STATUE OF FREDERICK DOUGLASS

SPEECH OF

**HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 21, 2013*

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of S. Con. Res. 16, which authorizes the use of Emancipation Hall for the unveiling of a statue of Frederick Douglass. It is fitting and proper that Emancipation Hall is the venue for the dedication of a memorial to one of this nation's greatest abolitionists and orators, and one of the closest friends and advisors of the Great Emancipator himself, Abraham Lincoln.

Frederick Douglass was born Frederick Augustus Washington Bailey near Easton, Maryland, on February 18, 1818, and lived the first 20 years of his life as a slave before escaping to freedom in 1838 through the Underground Railroad. With the assistance of abolitionists, he resettled in New Bedford, Massachusetts and changed his name to avoid recapture by fugitive slave bounty hunters.

Frederick Douglass had no formal education but he recognized the power of education and taught himself to read and write. He would go on to become the publisher of "The North Star," a leading abolitionist newspaper, whose motto was "Right is of no Sex—Truth is of no Color—God is the Father of us all, and we are all brethren."

Frederick Douglass also authored one of the seminal works in American history, the influential autobiography "Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, an American Slave," which explained with unsurpassed eloquence how slavery corrupts the human spirit and robs both master and slave of their freedom.

Frederick Douglass devoted his life to the struggle for freedom, human dignity, and the full measure of civil and human rights for all men and women, famously observing that "where there is no struggle, there is no progress; power concedes nothing without demand. It never has and never will."

Frederick Douglass was also one of America's greatest orators. He was the only African American to attend the first women's rights convention in 1848 at Seneca Falls, New York, where he spoke powerfully and forcefully in favor of women's suffrage. In his moving address, he said that he could not accept the right to vote as a black man if women could not also claim that right and suggested that the world would be a better place if women were involved in the political sphere:

In this denial of the right to participation in government, not merely the degradation of woman and the perpetuation of a great injustice happens, but the maiming and repudiation of one-half of the moral and intellectual power of the government of the world.

On July 5, 1852, Frederick Douglass delivered the address for which he is perhaps best known. The theme of that address to the Ladies of the Rochester Anti-Slavery Sewing Society was "What to the slave is the 4th of July?" In that speech, he described in stark and vivid detail the gap between America's principles and practices, its aspirations and the actual condition of people's lives, especially those persons of African descent. In answering the question, "What to the slave is your 4th of July," he said:

[A] day that reveals to him, more than all other days in the year, the gross injustice and cruelty to which he is the constant victim. To him, your celebration is a sham; your boasted liberty, an unholy license; your national greatness, swelling vanity; your sounds of rejoicing are empty and heartless; your denunciations of tyrants, brass fronted impudence; your shouts of liberty and equality, hollow mockery; your prayers and hymns, your sermons and thanksgivings, with all your religious parade, and solemnity, are, to him, mere bombast, fraud, deception, impiety, and hypocrisy—a thin veil to cover up crimes which would disgrace a nation of savages.

But Frederick Douglass was not bitter at America, he was determined to make her better. And he did through his writings, lectures, speeches, and civic activism. Most of all, the bond of friendship he forged with President Lincoln helped the nation summon the will to accept civil war as the price to be paid to abolish American slavery and emancipate from bondage millions of slaves and their descendants.

On April 14, 1876, the eleventh anniversary of the Lincoln's assassination, Frederick Douglass was the keynote speaker at the dedication of the Freedmen's Monument in Memory of Abraham Lincoln in the City of Washington, in which the Great Abolitionist spoke for all former slaves in paying tribute to the Great Emancipator:

Despite the mist and haze that surrounded him; we saw him . . . in the light of the stern logic of great events, and in view of that divinity which shapes our ends, . . . we came to the conclusion that the hour and the man of our redemption had somehow met in the person of Abraham Lincoln. [He] was at the head of a great movement, and was in living and earnest sympathy with that movement, which, in the nature of things, must go on until slavery should be utterly and forever abolished in the United States.

After the Civil War, Frederick served as U.S. Marshal for the District of Columbia and later as the first African American Recorder of Deeds. In 1888 at the Republican National Convention, he became the first African-American

to receive a vote for nomination as president of the United States by one of the major parties. From 1889 to 1891, Frederick Douglass served his country as Minister-Resident and Consul-General to Haiti. He died in Washington, D.C. on February 20, 1895, at the age of 77.

Mr. Speaker, the life of Frederick Douglass affirms what is great about our country. Here was a man who overcame the conditions of his birth and the disadvantages of his race to become one of the towering figures of his age. His life proves that Margaret Mead was right when she said:

Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has.

With the unveiling of the statue in memory of Frederick Douglass, fittingly located in Emancipation Hall of the U.S. Capitol, the story of this great man who led such a consequential life will be made known to all who visit for generations to come.

GREAT TEACHERS AND PRINCIPALS ACT OF 2013

**HON. THOMAS E. PETRI**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 23, 2013*

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, today Rep. JARED POLIS and I are introducing the Growing Excellent Achievement Training Academies (GREAT) Teachers and Principals Act.

The bill would implement reforms to encourage the growth of teacher and principal training academies that are held accountable for producing effective graduates in exchange for freedom from unnecessary regulations and bureaucracy.

Research continues to confirm that effective teaching is a critical component of student success. However, despite these findings, many teachers report feeling ill-prepared for their work in the classroom. These reforms will harness the power of innovation to create teacher and principal preparation programs that are more effective and more responsive to the needs of educators.

One leading study found that a majority of education school alumni (61 percent) reported that schools of education did not adequately prepare their graduates for the classroom. Principals surveyed as part of that study also gave schools of education low marks, with only 30 percent reporting that such schools prepare teachers very well or moderately well to meet the needs of students with disabilities, and only 16 percent reporting at those levels for students with limited English proficiency. It is well known that nearly half of new teachers leave the profession in the first five years.

In our bill, states would be given the flexibility to use a portion of the funds they receive for teacher and principal reforms to support the development of teacher or principal preparation academies. These academies, which may be traditional colleges of education but need not be, would be required to be selective in their admissions processes; emphasize clinical preparation by pairing their candidates with effective teachers or principals in the classroom; and produce a certain number of effective teachers or principals in order to maintain their authority to operate. In exchange for this accountability, they would be

free of much of the red tape currently imposed on schools, much of which has no demonstrated tie to student achievement.

The GREAT Act also has more than 80 endorsements from prominent education organizations, college of education deans, and state chief school officers, including Chiefs for Change, the Business Round Table, Teach For America, and the United Negro College Fund.

I urge my colleagues to join me and Rep. POLIS in supporting these important reforms.

RECOGNIZING SPECIALIST DANIEL  
LUCAS ELLIOT IN MEMORIAM

**HON. RENEE L. ELLMERS**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 23, 2013*

Mrs. ELLMERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the service and sacrifice of Specialist Daniel Lucas Elliot.

On July 15, 2011, Specialist Elliott's vehicle was in the lead vehicle of a convoy performing an improvised explosive device patrol in Basra, Iraq. Specialist Elliott's vehicle struck an improvised explosive device, killing him instantly. Specialist Elliott is survived by his parents, Ed A. and Martha P. Elliott of Youngsville, North Carolina, and his wife Trisha H. Elliott of Raleigh, North Carolina.

Specialist Elliott was born on July 18, 1989 in Youngsville, NC. He entered the United States Army Reserve on January 10, 2007. Specialist Elliott attended Basic Training and Advanced Individual Training at Fort Leonardwood, MO where he was awarded the Military Occupational Specialty of Military Police.

In January 2009, Specialist Elliott deployed with the 810th Military Police Company to Baghdad, Iraq, in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Later that year he moved to Basra, Iraq, where he served the rest of his deployment.

In March 2011, Specialist Elliott volunteered to deploy to Iraq a second time with the 805th Military Police Company in support of Operation New Dawn. He found himself stationed in Basra, Iraq, with the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division. It was during this assignment that he gave his life for his fellow soldiers.

Specialist Elliott's awards and decorations include the Bronze Star Medal (posthumous), Purple Heart Medal (posthumous), Meritorious Service Medal (posthumous), Army Commendation Medal, Army Good Conduct Medal, Army Reserve Component Achievement Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Service Ribbon, Iraqi Campaign Medal and the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal.

On June 8, 2013, the Army Reserve will dedicate the Cary, North Carolina, US Army Reserve Center to the memory of Specialist Elliot and his sacrifice for our country. The "Specialist Daniel Lucas Elliot Army Reserve Center" will serve as a reminder to the community, the nation, and our army of the courage and sacrifice of our Soldiers as they provide us security and defend our way of life.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you please join me, and the United States Army Reserve, in recognizing Specialist Elliott's dedicated service to

the Army and our Nation. His performance and selfless service are in keeping with the highest traditions of military service and reflect great credit upon himself, the United States Army Reserve, and the United States Army.

CONGRATULATING MOLLY FREY

**HON. STEVE STIVERS**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 23, 2013*

Mr. STIVERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Molly Frey on her achievement as a Military Kid of the Year from "Our Military Kids." I am honored that one of my very own constituents has been selected for this prestigious award.

According to "Our Military Kids," Molly was selected for the award because of her talents in ballet, figure skating, and sailing. She also has a philanthropic spirit, which has led to her helping raise money for breast cancer awareness and volunteering to support other military families through "Operation Baking GALS" (Give a Little Support).

Molly's father, Ohio Air Reserve Guard Senior Master Sgt. Kim Frey, was away on a seven-month deployment, which included six months in Afghanistan. As a Colonel in the Ohio Army National Guard and veteran of Operation Iraqi Freedom, I am impressed with the sacrifices that Molly and her family have made for our country and our freedom. Their family knows all too well that these sacrifices are shared, and I admire their strength to persevere.

Again, I offer my congratulations to Molly Frey. It was an honor to meet her and her family in April when she was in Washington, DC. I ask that all Members of Congress rise and join me in recognizing the sacrifices that all military families and personnel make for this great nation, including Molly Frey and her family.

SEC REGULATORY  
ACCOUNTABILITY ACT

SPEECH OF

**HON. ALAN GRAYSON**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 17, 2013*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1062) to improve the consideration by the Securities and Exchange Commission of the costs and benefits of its regulations and order:

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Chair, the U.S. House of Representative has passed a bill called the SEC Regulatory Accountability Act (H.R. 1062). Congress intended with this legislation to ensure that the Securities and Exchange Commission consider the costs and benefits of its regulatory apparatus, and further intended for this legislation to protect investors and improve capital formation.

INTRODUCTION

The Securities Exchange Act of 1934 states that there is a compelling national public interest in the regulation and control of securities transactions occurring either on exchanges or

over-the-counter to "protect interstate commerce, the national credit, the Federal taxing power, to protect and make more effective the national banking system and Federal Reserve System, and to insure the maintenance of fair and honest markets in such transactions." Nothing in the HR 1062 is meant to undermine the implied statutory authority of the SEC to protect the national interest.

In this bill, Congress did not intend to change the well-established rule, set forth in Supreme Court precedent, that any court reviewing an agency rule under the Administrative Procedure Act must be deferential to the agency's judgment and must not substitute the court's judgment for that of the agency.

In this bill, Congress did not intend the SEC to determine whether regulation is warranted if Congress has required the SEC to promulgate a rule. In other words, Congress did not intend to grant the SEC any right or power to ignore Congress's rulemaking mandates. Similarly, in this bill, Congress did not intend to condition any SEC rulemaking on any type of cost-benefit analysis if Congress has required the SEC to promulgate a rule on a matter.

In this bill, Congress did not intend to overturn the SEC's longstanding duty, above all other responsibilities, to protect investors and ensure the integrity of our financial markets. Thus, Congress's intent here is that the SEC, when engaged in rulemaking, do what is necessary to maximize the protection of investors and the integrity of our markets, and only attempt to minimize burdens once the attainment of those goals has been assured.

The Securities Exchange Act of 1934 determines that a significant cost of a lack of regulation are as follows: "National emergencies, which produce widespread unemployment and the dislocation of trade, transportation, and industry, and which burden interstate commerce and adversely affect the general welfare, are precipitated, intensified, and prolonged by manipulation and sudden and unreasonable fluctuations of security prices and by excessive speculation on such exchanges and markets, and to meet such emergencies the Federal Government is put to such great expense as to burden the national credit."

The most recent National Emergency was the financial crisis of 2007–2009. According to the Government Accountability Office, this crisis reduced economic activity and aggregate wealth of the United States by \$22 trillion. Congress, in passing this law, construed that this \$22 trillion number is the implied "benefit" of the SEC's regulatory apparatus. Congress intends the SEC to construe \$22 trillion as the benefit of its aggregate regulatory apparatus in any cost/benefit analysis, and to apply at least part of this \$22 trillion "benefit" as the benefit of any specific regulation. In any regulation in which the benefit of a specific rule or regulation is unclear, Congress intends for the SEC to consider the possibility of an averted National Emergency as a clear benefit.

The specific section of the Act amended by this bill grants to the Securities and Exchange Commission, the Federal Reserve Board of Governors, and other agencies the power "to make such rules and regulations as may be necessary or appropriate to implement the provisions of this chapter for which they are responsible or for the execution of the functions vested in them by this chapter." Nothing in this bill shall be construed to limit the authority of these agencies to regulate the securities markets.

## CONGRESSIONAL INTENT IN SPECIFIC PROVISIONS

In (e)(1)(A) of this bill, Congress mandated that the SEC consider the “nature and source of the problem that the proposed regulation is designed to address, as well as assess the significance of that problem” before issuing a regulation. Congress believes, consistent with systemic risk exceptions for open bank assistance, that the SEC may issue regulations to reduce systemic risk, and that such a rationale for a regulation is sufficient for a consideration of the nature and source of a problem, as well as determining its significance. Congress, consistent with the 1934 Act’s reasoning around the prevention of National Emergencies, intended for the SEC to consider the maximum possible loss to investors and maximum possible decline in capital formation should a regulation not be promulgated. This maximum cost should include considering the possibility of another systemically risky event similar to the financial crisis of 2008, with its implied cost of \$22 trillion (according to the Government Accountability Office).

See also, e.g., *Better Markets, the cost of the Wall Street Collapse and Ongoing Economic Crisis Is More Than \$12.8 Trillion* (Sept. 15, 2012), available at <http://bettermarkets.com/sites/default/files/Cost%20of%20The%20Crisis.pdf>. It is Congress’s intent that when promulgating rules, the SEC must consider whether a rule will help prevent such an economic catastrophe from happening again.

In (e)(1)(B) of this bill, Congress intended the Chief Economist to make a determination of the implied cost to society of not issuing a regulation, and the burden to society implied by current business practices. In requiring the Chief Economist to assess “both qualitative and quantitative” costs and benefits, Congress intended the Chief Economist to take into account costs and benefits that are not easily quantified, and to give such unquantifiable benefits of financial regulation the same consideration as the quantifiable benefits. These unquantifiable benefits include, but are not limited to, the avoidance of investor losses, heightened transparency, greater systemic stability, the benefits of increased investor confidence in the integrity of the financial system and the overall economic system, and, above all, any risk of a collapse of the global financial system and prevention of another crippling financial crisis. As some commentators have observed, it is imperative that rule-making be conducted in a holistic way, one that accounts for the huge benefits that accrue when a collection of rules helps prevent financial crises or other widespread abuses. See *Better Markets, Setting the Record Straight on Cost-Benefit Analysis and Financial Reform at the SEC* (July 30, 2012), available at <http://bettermarkets.com/sites/default/files/CBA%20Report.pdf>.

In Sections (e)(1)(B) and (e)(2)(A) of this bill, Congress recognized that when members of the regulated industry do not provide data on the costs of regulation to the SEC, and when cost data is not otherwise available, the SEC has no obligation to develop its own studies or generate its own data. 6Congress agrees with the assessment of the courts, which have long held that no agency has to go to such lengths when assessing costs, and this bill does not alter this important limit on an agency’s duty.

In (e)(1)(C) of this bill, Congress intended that a determination that a regulation is in-

tended to reduce systemic risk is a sufficient “explanation of why the regulation meets the regulatory objectives more effectively than the alternatives.” In this subsection, Congress intended the SEC to report on alternatives that it considered so as to provide a complete picture of the justification for the regulation; Congress did not intend to create a requirement that the SEC consider any minimum number of alternatives, or any alternatives at all.

In subsection (e)(1)(D) of the text added by this bill, Congress intended that any regulation should be easy to understand to the extent allowed by the subject matter of the regulation; Congress did not intend that regulations should be substantively simplified solely for ease of communication, or that a regulation might be invalid because of its complexity.

In (e)(2)(A) of this bill, Congress noted that, “in deciding whether and how to regulate, the Commission shall assess the costs and benefits of available regulatory alternatives, including the alternative of not regulating, and choose the approach that maximizes net benefits.” Congress believes that the avoidance of systemic risk and the attendant \$22 trillion cost of National Emergencies needs to be considered for any proposed regulation that the SEC determines is intended to reduce systemic risk.

In subsection (e)(2)(A)(ii) of the text added by this bill, Congress intended that the SEC, in identifying the regulation that imposes the “least burden on society,” should consider both the costs and benefits of the regulation itself, and should evaluate those burdens on society created by the regulation and those burdens on society that exist in the absence of regulation and would be mitigated by the proposed regulation. Congress intended the SEC to take into account not only the “cumulative costs of regulation,” but also the cumulative benefits of regulation.

Further, in subsection (e)(2)(A)(iii) of this bill, Congress intended that to “evaluate whether the regulation is consistent, incompatible, or duplicative of other Federal regulations” means to publish the regulation for comment in the Federal Register.

In (e)(3) of this bill, Congress intended that that phrase “industry group concerns” referenced in the second part of the paragraph also apply to the “consumer groups” referenced earlier in the same paragraph. Congress intended that Commission explain any changes resulting from comments by industry or consumer groups, and similarly requires them to give specific reasons if changes suggested by industry or consumer groups were not implemented. Congress intended “consumer groups” to mean groups that act in the public interest and provide a perspective that is generally a counterweight to industry financial interests and facilitating an appropriately diverse marketplace of ideas within the process of making and evaluating regulations. In addition, the SEC may explain a decision not to incorporate an industry group concern by citing an opposing concern raised by another commenter or by the SEC itself.

In (e)(4) of this bill, Congress intended for the Commission not only to take into account the “large burden of such regulation when compared to the benefit of such regulation,” but to also consider whether a regulation imposes only a relatively small burden when compared with its benefit, which could possibly warrant expansion, as is further indicated

by references in same subsection that the Commission should determine whether regulations are “ineffective [or] insufficient” and should be “expand[ed].” In other words, Congress’s intent for Section (e)(4) of this bill was that when the SEC is reviewing its regulations, it will devote the same attention to strengthening and expanding rules that have become weak over time as it does to streamlining or repealing ineffective rules.

In the same paragraph, in determining whether any regulations are “outmoded, ineffective, insufficient, or excessively burdensome,” Congress intended that the Commission should be particularly attentive to the rapid pace of change in the financial industry and the securities markets and the new risks that are created in those markets, including risks to the financial system as a whole, to corporations that rely on those markets, and to investors in those markets. Congress intends that the Commission, in using this periodic review process to “modify, streamline, expand, or repeal” regulations, should proactively protect against new threats to the financial system and close loopholes that are opened up by financial innovation aimed primarily at evading regulation.

In (e)(5)(A)(ii) of this bill, Congress intends that the “quantitative and qualitative metrics” should include, where relevant, the prevention of financial crises and severe recessions caused by those crises, as well as the maintenance of individual investor confidence in the securities markets.

In (e)(5)(B) of this bill, Congress intends that the mandated assessment plan may be in whatever form the Commission deems appropriate for the regulation at issue, subject to the requirements of subsection (e)(5)(B)(i). In particular, some or all of the costs or benefits of the regulation may be qualitative and not reducible to quantitative figures, and the Commission may determine that no action will be taken on the regulation on the basis of qualitative factors included in the assessment.

## A TRIBUTE TO THOMAS GRIFFIN

## HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 23, 2013*

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the achievements of Thomas Griffin of Ankeny, Iowa for receiving a coveted 2013 James Madison Fellowship from the James Madison Memorial Fellowship Foundation.

The James Madison Fellowship is offered to current and prospective teachers of American history and social studies to support study of the history and principles enshrined in the U.S. Constitution, at the graduate level. These fellowships provide a valuable service to our Nation by both fostering the aspirations of the Nation’s most promising and distinguished teachers while continually improving the quality of teaching in our Nation’s schools.

Mr. Griffin, a teacher at Johnston High School, represents one of just 56 fellowships that were awarded Nationwide in 2013. His selection for this honor will include up to \$24,000 toward a master’s degree in his field of study.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent leaders like Mr. Griffin from the great

State of Iowa in the United States Congress. I know my colleagues in the United States House will join me in congratulating him for receiving this recognition, and I wish him the best of luck in his studies and continuing career in education.

#### RECOGNIZING NATIONAL EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES WEEK

##### HON. TOM REED

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 23, 2013

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize May 19–25 as National Emergency Medical Services Week. The goal of this important week is to encourage safety and to honor the dedication of those who provide day-to-day lifesaving services. Though this honorary title may only last a week, the highlighted message should be recognized throughout the entire year.

This year's theme is "EMS: One Mission. One Team." This powerful theme serves as a reminder that emergency providers work selflessly each and every day to aid those in need whenever the call may be heard. Though the titles may differ—paramedics, first responders, firefighters—they all strive to improve the communities in which we live and work.

One does not have to look past the recent tragedy in Boston to fully understand just how important emergency medical services are in our daily lives. The heroes on that dark day were ordinary citizens who rose up in the face of tragedy to treat the dozens of wounded runners and innocent bystanders.

It is my hope that everyone takes a moment to thank those around them who perform these life-saving services. They are America's true everyday heroes.

#### CONGRATULATING THE BOROUGH OF NEW BRIGHTON ON ITS 175TH ANNIVERSARY

##### HON. KEITH J. ROTHFUS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 23, 2013

Mr. ROTHFUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Borough of New Brighton on the 175th anniversary of its founding in 1838. The Borough of New Brighton is located on the east bank of the Beaver River, about two miles from its junction with the Ohio River.

The present site of New Brighton was first settled by United States Army Colonel Josiah Harmar, who built a blockhouse with the help of troops from nearby Fort McIntosh in 1788. William and David Constable surveyed and laid out the site of the new town, which they named Brighton, after their old home in England. Residents soon popularized the name to New Brighton, and the new town was incorporated as such by an Act of Assembly in 1838.

New Brighton's early settlers were skilled tradesmen drawn by good factory sites, water power, and the demand for their specialized skills. Others sought religious freedom and economic opportunity. Today, New Brighton's residents take pride in their community, which

balances suburban living with a walkable downtown area. New Brighton is one of Beaver County's Rivertowns, and it offers a variety of recreation and cultural attractions including Big Rock Park, the New Brighton Fishing Park, and the Merrick Art Gallery.

Mr. Speaker, fellow Members, please join me in congratulating the Borough of New Brighton on the 175th anniversary of its founding.

#### HONORING STEVE PATERNOSTER

##### HON. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 23, 2013

Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Steve Paternoster, who was recently selected as the National Restaurant Association's 2013 Cornerstone Humanitarian of the Year for his extraordinary contributions to his community and for his philanthropic service to others. Steve has selflessly dedicated his life to improving the lives of countless New Mexicans. An alumnus of New Mexico Military Institute, Steve now serves as CEO of the YMCA of Central New Mexico and is the owner of a successful restaurant. From donating about \$200,000 annually through his business to serving on local non-profit boards, he focuses on organizations that support chronic disease, the less fortunate, young adults at risk and the arts.

In 2009, Steve and his daughter Haley founded the Special Programs Youth Assistance Foundation to help troubled and disadvantaged youth in New Mexico, including those in Children's Drug Court and those suffering from domestic abuse. After losing Haley to a heroin overdose in 2010, Steve has made it his life's mission to help others overcome obstacles similar to those Haley and the Paternoster family faced. Steve also hosts an annual holiday dinner at his restaurant for troubled teenagers, their families, Court staff and their families.

Steve works closely with many other causes including Isshin Ryu, a non-profit organization designed to provide education, recreation and enrichment activities to disadvantaged youth. He also works with the Heart Gallery of New Mexico Foundation, which helps hard-to-place children in foster homes. Additionally, Steve is involved with New Mexico AIDS Services, the American Heart Association, the American Stroke Association, the Heart Hospital of New Mexico Foundation and Dismas House, which provides support for people with chronic illnesses.

I congratulate Steve on receiving this prestigious award and thank him for his hard work and for the many contributions he has made and will continue to make to New Mexico.

#### NORTHERN ROUTE APPROVAL ACT

SPEECH OF

##### HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 22, 2013

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under

consideration the bill (H.R. 3) to approve the construction, operation, and maintenance of the Keystone XL pipeline, and for other purposes:

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Chair, I rise in strong opposition to this legislation, which is a transparent attempt to skirt federal law so that the majority can impose its own preferred outcome on the State Department's ongoing regulatory review of the Keystone XL pipeline.

Although my colleagues on the other side of the aisle make much of their professed commitment to regular order and distaste for earmarks, recent developments—including today's legislation—make clear that commitment is only as deep as it is convenient.

Regular order? We are now 37 days past due on delivering an FY 2014 Budget, and the majority still refuses to go to conference.

Earmarks? This legislation—which carves out numerous special exceptions for a single pipeline project benefitting one company—is clearly an earmark.

Mr. Chair, the decision as to whether to build the northern route of the Keystone XL pipeline should be made based on a complete and thorough evaluation of its impacts on our climate, energy security, water supply, job creation, air quality, balance of trade, human health and other relevant factors—not some hastily thrown together, ill-considered and politically driven exercise.

I urge a no vote.

#### TRIBUTE TO DEBORAH OSAKUE

##### HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 23, 2013

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I am privileged to interact with some of the brightest students in the 22nd Congressional District who serve on my Congressional Youth Advisory Council. I have gained much by listening to the high school students who are the future of this great nation. They provide important insight into the concerns of our younger constituents and hopefully get a better sense of the importance of being an active participant in the political process. Many of the students have written short essays on a variety of topics and I am pleased to share these with my House colleagues.

Deborah Osakue is a senior at Hightowner High School in Fort Bend County, Texas. Her essay topic is: In your opinion, why is it important to be involved in the political process?

Our constitution was framed according to the Lockean social contract that government should have the "consent of the governed". As an African American female, I know that people have died and have spent their lives fighting to give me an opportunity to participate in the American political process. If I abstain from the political process, these people would have fought and died in vain. I owe the likes of Susan B. Anthony, Sojourner Truth, and Martin Luther King the respect of my participation in a democracy they toiled to create. The American system of government gives its citizens one crucial responsibility: to vote. Men and women have died on foreign and domestic soil all so that I can be free. To abstain from the democratic process is to spill their blood in contempt. It is undeniable that the practice of gerrymandering has been used to oppress minority voices. I know our political

process is not flawless, but I also know that it is my responsibility to improve it.

Mahatma Ghandi once said, "You must be the change you wish to see in the world." I am responsible for creating the America of tomorrow. I must be involved in the political process in order to do so. I grew up observing the disparity between the quality of public education provided to students of lower and higher income homes. I spend a good amount of time each day watching the news and reading about what is wrong with the world. According to Beyond ABC 2012, an assessment of children's health, about eight percent of children in the U.S. have no medical insurance but the percentage of Texas children without medical insurance is significantly higher at fourteen percent. According to the National Institutes of Health, twenty percent of Americans suffer from a diagnosable form of mental illness and yet the problem of mental illness remains largely unscathed. These problems will not simply fix themselves. It is up to me to exercise my rights as a citizen to change my city, state and nation for the better. If I do not make an effort to fight for what I believe in, I cannot expect others to do so for me.

#### TRIBUTE TO CHARLES W. GOULD

##### HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 23, 2013*

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a tremendous educator and wonderful visionary on the occasion of his retirement. Dr. Charles W. Gould is retiring as president of Florence-Darlington Technical College after nearly 20 years of service. His leadership will certainly be missed, but his legacy will continue at the college and throughout the State of South Carolina.

Dr. Gould knew from a young age that he was passionate about education. He earned a Master's degree from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee with an emphasis on the philosophy of mathematics and a Ph.D. from Duke University with an emphasis on ethics and law.

Early in his career, Dr. Gould taught at Duke University, the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, and he was an Associate Managing Editor of a national educational publishing company. He has been in the technical college system of South Carolina for over thirty years and has served in three of the system's sixteen technical colleges.

His last and most significant position is serving as president of Florence-Darlington Technical College since November, 1993. During his tenure he has more than doubled the student body from less than 3,000 to more than 6,000 today. He has also grown the college by adding the health sciences campus in downtown Florence, the Lake City and Mullins satellite sites as well as expanding the Hartsville campus.

My service in Congress has coincided with Dr. Gould's presidency at Florence-Darlington Tech. During those two decades it was an honor to work with him, especially to secure funding for his crowning achievement. In 2007, the Southern Institute of Manufacturing and Technology (SIMT) opened and fulfilled Dr. Gould's vision for the college to provide hands on technical training in advanced manufacturing for students and local industry profes-

sionals. He oversaw the completion of the second phase of SIMT earlier this year which serves as a manufacturing business incubator.

In addition to his leadership at Florence-Darlington Tech, Dr. Gould serves on the board of the Commission on Colleges for the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools and frequently chairs accreditation teams and special projects for the Commission on Colleges. He also serves on the board of the National Council of Advanced Manufacturing and Technology Centers, Global Learning Systems and several other national organization boards of directors.

In the community, he currently chairs the Florence County Economic Development Partnership; is past president and ex-officio board member of the Greater Florence Chamber of Commerce; is an advisory board member for the Darlington County Economic Development Board, SCANA, Progress Energy, and BB&T Bank.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating Dr. Charles Gould for his visionary leadership and tremendous dedication to Florence-Darlington Technical College and the State of South Carolina. He deserves commendation for his many contributions as he embarks on a well-deserved retirement. I extend best wishes to him as he enters this new phase in his life, and thank him for his service and his friendship.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

##### HON. JOHN P. SARBANES

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 23, 2013*

Mr. SARBANES. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall Nos. 164–179, had I been present, I would have voted: Nos. 164—"yes"; No. 165—"yes"; No. 166—"yes"; No. 167—"no"; No. 168—"no"; No. 169—"no"; No. 170—"yes"; No. 171—"yes"; No. 172—"yes"; No. 173—"yes"; No. 174—"yes"; No. 175—"yes"; No. 176—"yes"; No. 177—"yes"; No. 178—"yes"; No. 179—"no".

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

##### HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 23, 2013*

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall vote No. 179, Final Passage of H.R. 3: Northern Route Approval Act (Keystone XL Pipeline), my vote is not recorded. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay."

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

##### HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 23, 2013*

Ms. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today regarding my absence from the House for the first votes on the evening of May 22, 2013. During this time, I was unfortunately detained in traffic returning to Capitol Hill following an

event in downtown DC. I would like to submit how I would have voted had I been in attendance for the following votes:

Rollcall No. 169, on Agreeing to Amendment No. 1 (H.R. 3). I would have voted "no." Rollcall No. 170, on Agreeing to Amendment No. 2. I would have voted "yea."

Rollcall No. 171, on Agreeing to Amendment No. 3. I would have voted "yea."

Rollcall No. 172, on Agreeing to Amendment No. 4. I would have voted "yea."

Rollcall No. 173, on Agreeing to Amendment No. 5. I would have voted "yea."

Rollcall No. 174, on Agreeing to Amendment No. 6. I would have voted "yea."

Rollcall No. 175, on Agreeing to Amendment No. 7. I would have voted "yea."

Rollcall No. 176, on Agreeing to Amendment No. 8. I would have voted "yea."

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

##### HON. MICHAEL E. CAPUANO

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 23, 2013*

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Speaker, I missed several votes on Monday, and I wish to state for the record how I would have voted had I been present: rollcall No. 161—"yes"; rollcall No. 162—"yes."

#### THOMASINA E. JORDAN INDIAN TRIBES OF VIRGINIA FEDERAL RECOGNITION ACT

##### HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 23, 2013*

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Thomasina E. Jordan Indian Tribes of Virginia Federal Recognition Act. This is the seventh time I have introduced legislation that would grant federal recognition to six Indian tribes in Virginia: the Chickahominy, the Eastern Chickahominy, the Upper Mattaponi, the Rappahannock, the Monacan, and the Nansemond. I am joined by my Virginia colleagues, Reps. BOBBY SCOTT, ROBERT WITTMAN and GERRY CONNOLLY.

Similar measures passed the House and the Senate Indian Affairs Committee during the 110th and 111th Sessions of Congress. Unfortunately, both measures were ultimately defeated when the objections of a few Senators were not overridden.

The impasse in Congress and the demeaning and dysfunctional acknowledgement process at the Bureau of Indian Affairs only compound the grave injustices this legislation seeks to redress and compels me to continue this cause and reintroduce this legislation today. The injustices the Virginia tribes have experienced extend back in time for hundreds of years, back to the establishment of the first permanent English settlement in America at Jamestown. For the Members of these tribes are the descendants of the great Powhatan Confederacy who greeted the English and provided food and assistance that ensured the settlers' early survival.

Six years ago, America celebrated the 400th anniversary of the settlement of Jamestown.



But it was not a celebration for Native American descendants of Pocahontas, for they have yet to be recognized by our federal government. Unlike most Native American tribes that were officially recognized when they signed peace treaties with the federal government, Virginia's six Native American tribes made their peace with the Kings of England. Most notable among these was the Treaty of 1677 between these tribes and King Charles II. This treaty has been recognized by the Commonwealth of Virginia every year for the past 334 years when the Governor accepts tribute from the tribes in a ceremony now celebrated at the Commonwealth Capitol. I had the honor of attending one of what I understand is the longest-celebrated treaty recognition ceremony in the United States.

The forefathers of the tribal leaders who gather on Thanksgiving in Richmond were the first to welcome the English, and during the first few years of settlement, ensured their survival. Had the tribes not assisted those early settlers, they would not have survived. Time has not been kind to the tribes, however. As was the case for most Native American tribes, as the settlement prospered and grew, the tribes suffered. Those who resisted quickly became subdued, were pushed off their historic lands, and, up through much of the 20th Century, were denied full rights as U.S. citizens. Despite their devastating loss of land and population, the Virginia tribes survived, preserving their heritage and their identity. Their story of survival spans four centuries of racial hostility and coercive state and state-sanctioned actions.

The Virginia tribes' history, however, diverges from that of most Native Americans in two unique ways. The first explains why the Virginia tribes were never recognized by the federal government; the second explains why congressional action is needed today. First, by the time the federal government was established in 1789, the Virginia tribes were in no position to seek recognition. They had already lost control of their land, withdrawn into isolated communities and been stripped of most of their rights. Lacking even the rights granted by the English Kings, and our own Bill of Rights, federal recognition was nowhere within their reach.

The second unique circumstance for the Virginia tribes is what they experienced with the destruction of their official records. From the destruction of local courthouses wrought by the Civil War to the 20th Century "paper genocide" perpetrated by the Commonwealth of Virginia, there are gaps in their records which could ultimately invalidate their petitions for recognition that have been filed with the Interior Department's Bureau of Indian Affairs.

With great hypocrisy, Virginia's ruling elite pushed policies that culminated with the enactment of the Racial Integrity Act of 1924. This act directed Commonwealth officials, and zealots like Walter Plecker, to destroy Commonwealth and local courthouse records and reclassify in Orwellian fashion all non-whites as "colored." It targeted Native Americans with a vengeance, denying Native Americans in Virginia their identity.

To call oneself a "Native American" in Virginia was to risk a jail sentence of up to one year. In defiance of the law, members of Virginia's tribes traveled out of state to obtain marriage licenses or to serve their country in wartime. The law remained in effect until it

was struck down in federal court in 1967. In that intervening period between 1924 and 1967, Commonwealth officials waged a war to destroy all public and many private records that affirmed the existence of Native Americans in Virginia. Historians have affirmed that no other state compares to Virginia's efforts to eradicate its citizens' Indian identity.

All of Virginia's state-recognized tribes have filed petitions with the Bureau of Acknowledgment seeking federal recognition. But it is a very heavy burden the Virginia tribes will have to overcome, and one fraught with complications that officials from the bureau have acknowledged may never be resolved in their lifetime. The acknowledgment process is already expensive, subject to unreasonable delays, and lacking in dignity. Virginia's paper genocide only further complicates these tribes' quest for federal recognition, making it difficult to furnish corroborating state and official documents and aggravating the injustice already visited upon them. The Bureau of Acknowledgment officials have admitted that the Virginia petitions may not be resolved for generations.

In appreciation of the fact that the issue of gambling and its economic and moral dimensions influence many Members' perspectives on tribal recognition issues, you should be aware that the bill has carried language every year prohibiting these tribes from gaming on their federal lands. This prohibition extends indefinitely, even if Virginia were to one day change course and allow gaming. The tribes find gambling offensive to their moral beliefs. They are seeking federal recognition because it is a matter of justice.

In the name of decency, fairness and humanity, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation and bring closure to the centuries of injustice Virginia's Native American tribes have experienced.

#### TRIBUTE TO JENNIFER ELLEFSON

#### HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 23, 2013

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I am privileged to interact with some of the brightest students in the 22nd Congressional District who serve on my Congressional Youth Advisory Council. I have gained much by listening to the high school students who are the future of this great nation. They provide important insight into the concerns of our younger constituents and hopefully get a better sense of the importance of being an active participant in the political process. Many of the students have written short essays on a variety of topics and I am pleased to share these with my House colleagues.

Jennifer Ellefson is a junior at George Ranch High School in Fort Bend County, Texas. Her essay topic is: In your opinion, what role should government play in our lives?

Government should be nothing more than a regulatory force. Too often people see the Government as a great power, but the government should only be given the power it is deemed worthy of by the people. That is the principle of popular sovereignty, the people rule. Without that principle, governments lose balance and forget their purpose. Our government's purposes are in protection,

business regulation, law enforcement, and medicine among other things. The government's job is not to be a part of your life, but to keep your life from becoming anarchy, and provide ease for certain things. An oppressive form of government is one that is invasive in day to day life; the American government should play scarcely a role in your life outside of organization and providing order. Our police officers are given their power by the people. They are not above us, but they regulate us due to the right we give them through our government, the people's government. Law enforcement ensures that we are not victimized by the masses daily, without the government to regulate our protection, anarchy would ensue, and violence and murder would ravage the land. Business regulation insures that employees cannot be mistreated, and that customers are kept safe through standard requirements of cleanliness and durability. Before the FDA, thousands of people would die a year from food poisoning. While some still slip through the cracks, the government has all but eliminated business corruption at the production and employment levels. Standardized medical procedure has saved millions of lives in the last century; if it were not government regulated there would still be frequent abortions in truck beds and household remedies killing people all over. Now the government is attempting to regulate medicine even further; socialized medicine, in my view, is a must. Part of government regularity is protection; is it not protection to ensure that even a homeless man should not die from a disease because he cannot afford the surgery? Some people say it is invasive, but further taxation for the better of you and all is not an invasion of life, it is a regulation of order. Regulation and facilitation is the government role and nothing further.

#### PORT OPPORTUNITY, REINVESTMENT AND TRAINING ACT

#### HON. JANICE HAHN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 23, 2013

Mr. HAHN. Ms. Speaker, as Memorial Day, the unofficial start of summer approaches, students across the country are turning to figuring out how they are going to fill their time. But this summer, many of those students looking for a summer job face an uphill battle.

High teen unemployment continues to cast a shadow over communities struggling to bounce back from the recession. For many teens, summer is a time to find their first jobs and learn their first lessons about making and managing money, building vital professional and personal skills. Unfortunately, the recovery has not reached many of our communities, which impacts these teens as they struggle to find employment to keep themselves out of trouble and maybe bring in a little extra money to ease the burden on their families today, we are diminishing their ability to compete in the workforce tomorrow.

Last summer, the unemployment rate for teenagers in the United States remained intolerably high, at 17.1 percent. The teen unemployment rate is even higher for young African-Americans and Latinos, putting them at a special disadvantage as they try to enter the adult workforce. Just in my community of Compton, the overall unemployment rate jumped to a staggering 20 percent, as schools



let out for the summer and students tried to find summer work.

That is why I have re-introduced the "Port Opportunity, Reinvestment and Training (PORT) Act" with my colleague, Chair of the Congressional Urban Caucus and PORTS Caucus member, Congressman CHAKA FATTAH of Pennsylvania. This legislation authorizes the creation of a grant program at ports throughout the country to hire eligible high school students over the summer. This is a win-win for the American economy. Our nation's ports have long been engines of economic growth, and so there is no better place for students to learn the skills they need to compete in today's workforce.

These grants are an investment in the communities that need them most. Not only will these grants put money in the pockets of high school students facing unprecedented levels of unemployment, but they will build a foundation for successful communities and successful adults.

I urge my colleagues to support this crucial investment in our students, our communities, and our economy.

CELEBRATING JOHN AND JEANETTE MASON'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 23, 2013*

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize John and Jeanette Mason, who are celebrating their 50th anniversary this month. As John and Jeanette have discovered, the secret to a successful marriage is having a supportive partner. Interestingly enough, this same quality serves as the foundation for strong and vibrant communities. John and Jeanette's commitment not only to one another but also to our community has touched the lives of countless families in Fairfax City and across Northern Virginia, and I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating this wonderful couple.

John's public service began with the U.S. Army, where he served for 21 years before retiring as a Colonel. Any longtime resident of Northern Virginia is familiar with the tremendous work done during John's 14-year tenure as the Mayor of the City of Fairfax, where his leadership ensured adoption of the city's "2020 Plan," which became the roadmap for Fairfax City's revitalization efforts. Moreover, John is responsible for spearheading the redevelopment of Old Town Fairfax, including the new City of Fairfax Regional Library that serves as the anchor for the area's redevelopment efforts. John and Jeanette were instrumental in the building of the beautiful Stacy C. Sherwood Community Center in Fairfax City and countless other community projects that have ensured Fairfax remains one of the region's top-rated communities in which to live, work, and raise a family.

I have had the privilege of working closely with John on many of the issues he is most passionate about and dedicated to, including the future of transportation in Northern Virginia. After retiring from the Army, John was tapped by SAIC for his expertise on transportation issues, and with Jeanette's support,

John's decision to enter public service once again ensured that Northern Virginia benefitted from his wealth of knowledge on transportation policy. Through John's tireless work on the National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board at the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments and the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority, he became the go-to elected official on regional transportation issues. Over the years, John became a force to be reckoned with. As many can attest, few individuals know more than John does about bus fleets, congestion patterns, Metro, or commuter delays in Northern Virginia.

John's work on the Fairfax County-Fairfax City Interjurisdictional Committee and his belief in vigorous good neighbor policies elevated the relationship between the City and County to new heights. In addition, John worked to strengthen the City's ties with neighboring George Mason University, which would not enjoy the prominence it does today without John's advocacy for a robust relationship between the university and the surrounding community.

More recently, John and Jeanette have made incalculable contributions to Fairfax's local arts community. John has served as the Chairman of the Arts Council of Fairfax County and as the President of the Fairfax Symphony. He currently serves as the President and CEO of the Lorton Workhouse Arts Center, where he oversees all aspects of the art center's planning and operations. He is also the founder and president of Fairfax Spotlight on the Arts, an annual three-week festival that showcases artists in local venues. And of course, many of the region's music patrons are familiar with John and Jeanette's active support of the City of Fairfax Band Association, Fairfax Symphony Orchestra, not to mention many other orchestras across Northern Virginia.

John and Jeanette's marriage is a testament to the durability of a loving relationship, and our community continues to benefit mightily from the local contributions from their partnership. John would happily admit that his many accomplishments would not be possible without the love and support of Jeanette. Her care, love, and support during John's battle with cancer assured his return to vigor, ensuring a healthy retirement spent with their children, John Jr., Joanna, and Jeffrey, and their grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating John and Jeanette Mason on their 50th anniversary and in wishing them many more years of happiness.

#### IMPROVING JOB OPPORTUNITIES FOR VETERANS ACT OF 2013

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 21, 2013*

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 1412, the "Improving Job Opportunities for Veterans Act of 2013." There are over 800,000 veterans unemployed, or unable to find work in the United States, and the number is rising every year. If our brave men and women are to serve at home and abroad, it is our moral obligation to help

ensure they can successfully transition into the workforce. For this reason I support the legislation before us.

H.R. 1412 would extend for one month an expiring provision of law that limits pensions paid to certain veterans who are receiving Medicaid coverage in Medicaid-approved nursing homes. The bill also would modify the conditions for veterans to receive education benefit payments from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) for participating in on-the-job training and require VA to enter into agreements with other federal agencies to promote on-the-job training opportunities for veterans.

The Improving Job Opportunities for Veterans Act will reduce the final OJT/Apprenticeship salary requirements that employers pay of the normal wage from 85% to 75% to encourage employers to offer more OJT/Apprenticeship training for an additional 4 years. The bill also requires other Federal agencies to enter into agreements with the Department of Veterans Affairs to hire veterans using the OJT/Apprenticeship benefit and extends reduced pension benefits for certain veterans in Medicaid funded nursing homes.

If enacted, CBO estimates that, on net, the bill would decrease direct spending by \$14 million over the next five years and by \$12 million over the next ten years. Because the bill would affect direct spending, pay-as-you-go procedures apply. Enacting H.R. 1412 would not affect revenues. In addition, implementing H.R. 1412 would have an insignificant effect on discretionary spending.

Mr. Speaker, instead of returning home to their loving families, friends, and loved ones, 12 percent of veterans—about 1 in 8—are returning home to find unemployment lines. We owe it to these men and women who selflessly served our nation to help them change their condition for the better. The legislation before us, H.R. 1412, is a step in the right direction for veterans across the country and for many of the 35,000 veterans of the Iraq and Afghanistan Wars who live in the Houston metropolitan area.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all my colleagues to join in me in supporting H.R. 1412, the "Job Opportunities for Veterans Act of 2013."

#### RECOGNIZING NEW MEXICO STATE REPRESENTATIVE NICK SALAZAR

HON. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 23, 2013*

Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor New Mexico Rep. Nick Salazar who received the "Lifetime Achievement Award" from Los Alamos National Laboratory.

Rep. Salazar is one of the most distinguished members of the New Mexico Legislature, having represented his district, which encompasses Colfax, Mora, Rio Arriba and San Miguel counties, since 1973. Incredibly, Rep. Salazar has worked for Los Alamos National Laboratory for 63 years. In both roles, Rep. Salazar has been an effective leader who has had a profound impact on his community, his state and a thankful nation.

During his distinguished career at LANL, Rep. Salazar was responsible for ensuring that the lab was a responsible and productive

partner to the communities of northern New Mexico. He played a key role in expanding opportunities for research and development, the development of small and minority-owned businesses, technology transfer initiatives, math and science programs, and job training and development. He promoted these programs while advocating for stringent environmental regulations that protected the public. He also served as a member of the Los Alamos National Security Board of Governors.

Rep. Salazar honorably served his country as a Sergeant in the United States Air Force and his community as a County Commissioner from 1964 to 1968.

Rep. Salazar is one of the longest-serving members of the state House of Representatives, having been elected 20 times and serving 40 years. He has been a champion for working class families. Rep. Salazar sponsored legislation to create Northern New Mexico College in Espanola, and led the effort to broaden the mission of the school to allow for four-year degrees. He has also served as chairman of the North Central New Mexico Economic Development District for decades. Rep. Salazar is one of New Mexico's foremost advocates for the state's senior citizens. In 1991, he led the effort to establish the nation's first Indian Area Agency on Aging, and in 2003, he sponsored legislation that created the New Mexico Aging & Long-Term Services Department, elevating the agency to Cabinet-level status.

Rep. Salazar's colleagues in the Legislature have turned to him through the years as a trusted mentor, known for his erudition and his principled approach to the most important issues facing the state. He is a quintessential leader who cares deeply for his family, his community, the Labs and the institution of the New Mexico House of Representatives.

Rep. Nick Salazar is a resident of San Juan Pueblo. He is married to Maria Ana and has three adult children, Yvonne, Earl and Gregory.

IN HONOR OF THE LITERACY  
COUNCIL OF MONTGOMERY  
COUNTY, MARYLAND

**HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 23, 2013*

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to extend my heartiest congratulations to the Literacy Council of Montgomery County, Maryland ("LCMC") on its 50th anniversary.

In 1963, Elizabeth Kilgore, a county resident who recognized serious literacy deficiencies in her community, began working with community leaders, educators, clergy, and other concerned residents to develop an organizational plan and charter to create the LCMC. Utilizing only volunteers, and because 96% of Montgomery County residents spoke English as their first language, LCMC initially focused on improving the literacy skills of native-born citizens. In 1967, LCMC offered its first English as a Second Language (ESL) tutoring program to serve the growing immigrant population in Montgomery County.

Fifty years later, LCMC, based in Rockville, Maryland, has developed into an organization of more than 800 volunteers, teachers and

staff. Now with 12 full- and part-time staff members, LCMC's programs include intensive classroom-based instruction taught by professional instructors, conversation classes, independent computer-based instruction, short-term "life-skills" classes, an online GED preparation program, and a workplace literacy program. In its 50 years of service, LCMC has provided literacy instruction to approximately 15,000 adult learners and has trained nearly 8,700 volunteer tutors. Its programs currently serve 1,500 adults each year.

In Montgomery County, where approximately 40% of the current population speaks a language other than English at home, the success of this program is critical. Nearly 15% of Montgomery County residents over age 5 speak English less than "very well." Twelve percent of children in Montgomery County public schools are enrolled in ESOL classes and are likely to have parents with limited English proficiency. LCMC also serves native-born adults who are able to speak English, but are unable to read and/or write.

Thanks to LCMC's outstanding work, many members of our community have been able to overcome the challenges posed by illiteracy, allowing them to participate more fully in the community and to improve their quality of life. In short, LCMC has transformed the lives of thousands of adults and families.

I am proud that LCMC is located in Maryland's Eighth Congressional District, and I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating LCMC on its extraordinary accomplishments and extend to it all good wishes for continued success.

HONORING BRIGADIER GENERAL  
STEVEN RUDDER

**HON. WALTER B. JONES**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 23, 2013*

Mr. JONES. Mr. Speaker, Brigadier General Steven Rudder is a man for whom I have great respect. During his time in Washington serving the Commandant of the United States Marine Corps, I have gotten to know BGen Rudder in his efforts to work with me to clear the names of two Marine pilots who were killed in a V22 crash.

Because of this issue, I have had many opportunities to meet with BGen Rudder over the past two years and have found him to be a man of great integrity and reason. He is a man who does all he can to help someone else.

He has served as a knowledgeable advisor to me and my staff and I believe our country is better protected because of leaders like him.

I will always be grateful for BGen Rudder's assistance and I wish him and his family all the best in their move to Japan. I know he will continue to serve our country with honor.

May God continue to bless the Rudder family, our men and women in uniform, and the United States of America.

IN HONOR AND MEMORY OF MARINE PFC OSCAR A. MARTINEZ AND NAVY MASTER-AT-ARMS 2ND CLASS MICHAEL J. BRODSKY

**HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 23, 2013*

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize two American heroes, Marine PFC Oscar A. Martinez and Navy Master-at-Arms 2nd Class (MA2) Michael J. Brodsky, who made the ultimate sacrifice in service to their country. They are the first residents of the City of North Lauderdale, Florida to be killed while serving in the Armed Forces since it was founded 50 years ago, and I am truly honored to have had the privilege to represent them in Congress. My heartfelt condolences go out to the families and friends of these two young men for their loss.

PFC Oscar Martinez was born in Dallas in 1984. Originally from El Salvador, his family settled in South Florida in 1987. Oscar's mother died when he was a child, leaving him and his three younger siblings to be raised by his uncle, Rene Martinez, and the children's grandmother, Maria Marta Mendez. According to his sister, Morena Martinez, Oscar dreamt of being a Marine ever since he was little, and was determined to be the best at what he did.

Oscar joined the Marine Corps in 2003, shortly before graduating from North Lauderdale High School, and was assigned to the I Marine Expeditionary Force based out of Camp Pendleton, California. Sadly, he was killed on October 12, 2004 when a mortar fired by insurgents exploded at a U.S. base where he was eating with his unit in the Iraqi province of Anbar. He was just 19 years old.

MA2 Michael Brodsky, of Tamarac, Florida, enlisted in the Navy in 2001, following the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks. He was stationed in the security department at Sasebo Naval Base in Japan from 2002 to 2005 before earning the award of Distinguished Graduate from the Military Working Dog Course at Lackland Air Force Base in Texas. Mike also served at Naval Support Activity (NAS) Bahrain. In December 2010, he was assigned to Navy Region Southwest Security Detachment in San Diego, California.

On July 7, 2012, Mike was on patrol in Kandahar Province, Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom when his unit started taking fire. He rushed to protect his dog Jackson by putting him back in the truck as he was trained to do, and then returned to the fight. It was then that Mike stepped on the pressure plate of an improvised explosive device (IED), and the blast took both his legs. In critical condition and unresponsive, he was flown to Germany where doctors tried to save him. On the morning of July 17, 2012, Mike was awarded the Purple Heart. Tragically, the 33-year-old died from his injuries on July 21, 2012 at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Germany. He is survived by his daughter Natalia, parents Debra and Steven Brodsky, younger brother Corey Brodsky, and grandfather Stanley Brodsky.

Mr. Speaker, on May 31, 2013, the City of North Lauderdale will be dedicating a fallen soldier statue in memory of PFC Oscar Martinez and MA2 Michael Brodsky, who gave

their lives in order to protect freedom and democracy around the world. As we recently observed the 10th anniversary of the Iraq War and over 11 years of U.S. involvement in Afghanistan, we must remember all those who have fallen in service to our great country. Our nation owes them, as well as the millions of brave servicemen and women who have served and continue to serve, an eternal debt of gratitude. Their service will not be forgotten.

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HONORING DEBBIE ZELMAN

**HON. LOIS FRANKEL**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 23, 2013*

Ms. FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Debbie Zelman, a truly inspiring woman from South Florida. Five years ago, Ms. Zelman was a successful attorney, wife, and mother, when she heard those life shattering words that she was diagnosed with Stage IV stomach cancer. The doctor gave her only a 50/50 chance to live after one year and only a four percent chance to live after five years. It's been four years now, and I am proud to say Debbie is with us today, beating the odds every day.

Debbie is not alone in her struggle against stomach cancer. This terrible disease is the most common form of cancer in the world. Every year in America, 21,000 Americans are diagnosed with stomach cancer, and it is the second leading cause of cancer deaths for women in this country.

After receiving her diagnosis, Debbie was frustrated to find little information on her disease and fewer options for treatment and support. Fortunately, she persevered and got treatment. Today, she is not only a cancer survivor, she is an advocate.

In 2009, she founded Debbie's Dream Foundation: Curing Stomach Cancer, which provides a voice for the victims of this under-recognized and under-funded disease. Initially working in South Florida, Debbie's Dream has grown into a national organization that provides support and awareness for patients and their families. During their 4th Annual Night of Laughter, Debbie's Dream raised \$21,000 for stomach cancer research.

In honor of her inspiring fight against cancer and her tireless advocacy, I am pleased to recognize Debbie Zelman and wish her continued success in this important endeavor.

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RECOGNIZING MS. SHIRLEY ISON-NEWSOME

**HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 23, 2013*

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Shirley Ison-Newsome, the departing Assistant Superintendent of the Dallas Independent School District. Ms. Ison-Newsome will retire after 37 years of dedicated service.

Ms. Ison-Newsome has a long history as an educator and administrator within the Dallas ISD. She first began her work with the Dallas ISD during the 1970s, helping to lead further

efforts to desegregate schools. Ms. Ison-Newsome's role within the Dallas ISD evolved quickly, as she assumed the role of principal of the Harry Stone Middle School, and then later as Area 2 Superintendent.

Ms. Ison-Newsome has contributed substantially to building Dallas ISD's academic program. She has frequently been recognized by her colleagues and outside organizations for her extensive work in education.

Mr. Speaker, I commend Ms. Ison-Newsome for devoting much of her life to the students of the Dallas ISD. I wish Ms. Ison-Newsome well in her retirement and her future endeavors. Public education is absolutely critical for our future generations, and having devoted educators as part of the public education system is an asset for the sound development of our youth.

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HONORING FAITH ORAKWUE

**HON. PETE OLSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 23, 2013*

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I am privileged to interact with some of the brightest students in the 22nd Congressional District who serve on my Congressional Youth Advisory Council. I have gained much by listening to the high school students who are the future of this great nation. They provide important insight into the concerns of our younger constituents and hopefully get a better sense of the importance of being an active participant in the political process. Many of the students have written short essays on a variety of topics and I am pleased to share these with my House colleagues.

Faith Orakwue is a senior at Lamar Consolidated High School in Fort Bend County, Texas. Her essay topic is: In your opinion, what role should government play in our lives?

What role should the government play in our lives? This is an issue that I have often mulled over during my years as a young adult, and, at different times, I offer varying answers regarding this particular issue.

The American government was an institution created by the people and for the people, so it seems logical that the people should maintain ultimate control over the government, right? However, the Articles of Confederation helped to disprove this theory quite a bit—without the strong backing of a central government (ultimately acting as a backbone), the states acted according to their whim and the nation was weak and in ultimate disarray. The Constitution later came in and created a stronger central government, which helped to establish a more cohesive structure to the nation.

The point I am trying to make is that government should be resilient and diligently involved in the welfare of its people in order to create a nation that works to promote the well-being of all of its people. In order to do this, the government has to be involved, and that means being present in all issues, even personal and moral ones. The thing is, once a person is sworn into a public office, they are there to promote the well-being and advancement of the American people. In order to do this, government has to temporarily put aside their own views and beliefs and truly work towards the choice that is best for the American people. For example, had Lyndon B. Johnson listened to other Southern governors who despised African Ameri-

cans and allowed their thinking to cloud his judgment, African Americans may not have received their rights until much later in history, because, at that time, integration was not a favorable idea/belief. Or, if the government had not ruled in *Roe v. Wade*, women would not have total control over their bodies. And, although I may not necessarily agree with abortion, it is definitely not in my place to dictate whether a woman should have a baby or not, and it is not in the government's place to tell the American people they cannot do something (that does not hurt others) simply because it goes against their moral beliefs.

The United States is an amalgamation of different cultures, viewpoints, and ideas that works to create the nation we call America. And, in order to preserve that order and openness that we are famous for, the government has to be both strong and involved in the issues that concern us. However, in order to be truly effective, a country's government has to be both strong and unbiased, an institution truly working for the betterment of its people.

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THE CLAIMS LICENSING ADVANCEMENT FOR INTERSTATE MATTERS ACT (CLAIM) ACT

**HON. STEPHEN LEE FINCHER**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 23, 2013*

Mr. FINCHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Claims Licensing Advancement for Interstate Matters Act, known as the CLAIM Act to help consumers save millions of dollars in insurance costs and create more jobs.

Under current law, independent claims adjusters face a hodgepodge of inconsistent state regulations that only serve to delay the prompt adjustment of claims for natural disasters, car accident victims, and other tragedies in life. Independent claims adjusters must take a license examination in each state in which they work. This requires adjusters to take time off from their job and travel to each state in which they seek a license. This is a costly burden on the claims adjusters, the companies that employ them, and ultimately, the consumer. Sadly, it is the consumer who currently pays for these costs in higher premiums.

Today, it is my pleasure to re-introduce a bill that would end this costly burden. The CLAIM Act would lead to a process that would provide independent claims adjusters licensing reciprocity so their home-state license is valid in any other state.

The CLAIM Act would also provide specific relief during a natural disaster. In areas designated by the President of the United States as a "Disaster Area," independent claims adjusters who meet certain criteria would be eligible to adjust claims for losses notwithstanding the state where the adjuster is licensed.

To be clear, the CLAIM Act does not create a new federal law and does not "federalize" the insurance industry. The CLAIM Act respects states' rights to continue to regulate insurance. Rather, the CLAIM Act would urge the National Association of Insurance Commissioners to adopt a model licensing standard for state regulation for independent claims adjusters that each individual state would adopt. The CLAIM Act would make sure that

each state keeps its independence to adopt rules as they see fit and recognizes that state insurance regulators are best situated to address insurance licensing standards.

In the 112th Congress, I sponsored H.R. 6415, the CLAIM Act, a bill very similar to what I am introducing today. After working with stakeholders, I added a new Section 4 that clarifies the CLAIM Act will not interfere with State insurance regulation. I made this change at the request of State insurance regulators who felt the previous bill did not go far enough to protect State insurance regulation. Mr. Speaker, I am confident the CLAIM Act will further protect the State insurance industry and regulation.

The goal of this bill is to streamline the claims adjustment process so that individual claims adjusters can respond in the fastest possible and most cost-effective manner possible. I look forward to further discussing the issues of uniformity and reciprocity and the CLAIM Act as we move forward in the Committee process.

#### AGAINST CUTS TO THE SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM IN THE 2013 FARM BILL

**HON. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM**

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 23, 2013*

Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today appalled by proposed cuts to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) in the 2013 Farm Bill. This program provides crucial support to families in New Mexico and across the country that continue to struggle to make ends meet.

SNAP benefits help many households lift themselves out of poverty, and prevent families from falling even deeper into poverty. With SNAP benefits already averaging less than \$1.50 per person per meal, any reduction in a family's monthly benefits or eligibility would be devastating. We cannot keep expecting poor working families and senior citizens to shoulder the burden of misguided deficit reduction.

In my state, over 78 percent of SNAP participants are in families with children. Instead of taking food out of the mouths of the one in five New Mexicans who depend on these benefits for their basic nutrition and economic security, Congress should focus on creating jobs that will grow the economy. New Mexico's farmers and ranchers deserve a Farm Bill, but it's wrong to harm our children, seniors and veterans in the process.

I urge the House of Representatives to oppose any short-sighted cuts to this vitally important program.

#### TRIBUTE TO DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY AGENTS, OFFICERS, AND COAST GUARD PERSONNEL

**HON. JOHN R. CARTER**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 23, 2013*

Mr. CARTER. Mr. Speaker, the mission of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS)

is broad and diverse. The men and women of DHS protect our borders and modes of transportation; they guard our waterways; they protect U.S. and foreign leaders; they prepare for and respond to disasters; they manage our immigration process; and, they defend us against cyberattack. DHS employees provide selfless service to their nation and they do so with honor and distinction under an ever-present threat.

I would like to pay tribute to the Department of Homeland Security's agents, officers, and Coast Guard personnel who lost their lives in the service of our nation in 2012. I would like to enter into the record the names of all sixty-one courageous men and women of DHS who have died in the line of duty since the Department's inception in 2003. We owe them more than a tribute on this day, but our gratitude begins with that.

LORENZO R. GOMEZ, Immigration Enforcement Agent, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, El Paso, Texas, End of Watch: November 8, 2003.

JAMES P. EPLING, Border Patrol Agent, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Yuma, Arizona, End of Watch: December 16, 2003.

NATHAN B. BRUCKENTHAL, Damage Controlman Third Class (E-4), U.S. Coast Guard, Iraq, End of Watch: April 24, 2004.

TRAVIS W. ATTAWAY, Senior Patrol Agent, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Harlingen, Texas, End of Watch: September 19, 2004.

JEREMY M. WILSON, Senior Patrol Agent, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Harlingen, Texas, End of Watch: September 19, 2004.

PHILIP C. LEBID, Special Agent, U.S. Secret Service, Tampa, Florida, End of Watch: November 22, 2004.

GEORGE B. DeBATES, Senior Patrol Agent, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Casa Grande, Arizona, End of Watch: December 19, 2004.

DAVID G. WILHELM, Assistant Special Agent in Charge, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Atlanta, Georgia, End of Watch: March 11, 2005.

CHRISTOPHER J. SMITH, Assistant to the Special Agent in Charge, U.S. Secret Service, Atlanta, Georgia, End of Watch: March 25, 2005.

NICHOLAS D. GREENIG, Senior Patrol Agent, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Tucson, Arizona, End of Watch: March 14, 2006.

JESSICA E. HILL, Lieutenant (0-3), U.S. Coast Guard, Arctic Ocean, End of Watch: August 17, 2006.

STEVEN DUQUE, Boatswain's Mate Second Class (E-5), U.S. Coast Guard, Arctic Ocean, End of Watch: August 17, 2006.

DAVID N. WEBB, Senior Patrol Agent, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Ajo, Arizona, End of Watch: November 3, 2006.

RAMON NEVAREZ, JR., Border Patrol Agent, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Lordsburg, New Mexico, End of Watch: March 15, 2007.

DAVID J. TOURSCHER, Border Patrol Agent, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Lordsburg, New Mexico, End of Watch: March 16, 2007.

RONALD A. GILL, JR., Port Security Specialist Third Class U.S. Coast Guard Reserve, Puget Sound, Washington, End of Watch: March 25, 2007.

CLINTON B. THRASHER, Air Interdiction Agent, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, McAllen, Texas, End of Watch: April 25, 2007.

RICHARD GOLDSTEIN, Border Patrol Agent, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Indio, California, End of Watch: May 11, 2007.

ROBERT F. SMITH, Air Interdiction Agent, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, El Paso, Texas, End of Watch: May 22, 2007.

ERIC N. CABRAL, Border Patrol Agent, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Boulevard, California, End of Watch: July 26, 2007.

JULIO E. BARAY, Air Interdiction Agent, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, El Paso, Texas, End of Watch: September 24, 2007.

LUIS AGUILAR, Border Patrol Agent, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Yuma, Arizona, End of Watch: January 19, 2008.

JAROD C. DITTMAN, Border Patrol Agent, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, San Diego, California, End of Watch: March 30, 2008.

THOMAS G. NELSON, Captain (0-6) U.S. Coast Guard, Oahu, Hawaii, End of Watch: September 4, 2008.

ANDREW C. WISCHMEIER, Lieutenant Commander (0-4), U.S. Coast Guard, Oahu, Hawaii, End of Watch: September 4, 2008.

DAVID L. SKIMIN, Aviation Survival Technician First Class (E-6), U.S. Coast Guard, Oahu, Hawaii, End of Watch: September 4, 2008.

JOSHUA W. NICHOLS, Aviation Maintenance Technician First Class (E-6), U.S. Coast Guard, Oahu, Hawaii, End of Watch: September 4, 2008.

NATHANIEL A. AFOLAYAN, Border Patrol Agent, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Artesia, New Mexico, End of Watch: May 1, 2009.

CRUZ C. McGUIRE, Border Patrol Agent, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Del Rio, Texas, End of Watch: May 21, 2009.

ROBERT W. ROSAS, JR., Border Patrol Agent, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Campo, California, End of Watch: July 23, 2009.

CHE J. BARNES, Lieutenant Commander (0-4), U.S. Coast Guard, San Clement Island, California, End of Watch: October 29, 2009.

ADAM W. BRYANT, Lieutenant (0-3), U.S. Coast Guard, San Clement Island, California, End of Watch: October 29, 2009.

JOHN F. SEIDMAN, Aviation Maintenance Technician Chief Petty Officer, U.S. Coast Guard, San Clement Island, California, End of Watch: October 29, 2009.

CARL P. GRIGONIS, Avionics Electrical Technician Second Class (E-5), U.S. Coast Guard, San Clement Island, California, End of Watch: October 29, 2009.

MONICA L. BEACHAM, Avionics Electrical Technician Second Class (E-5), U.S. Coast Guard, San Clement Island, California, End of Watch: October 29, 2009.

DANNY R. KREDER, JR., Aviation Maintenance Technician Third Class (E-4), U.S. Coast Guard, San Clement Island, California, End of Watch: October 29, 2009.

JASON S. MOLETTZSKY, Aviation Maintenance Technician Third Class (E-4), U.S. Coast Guard, San Clement Island, California, End of Watch: October 29, 2009.

MARK F. VAN DOREN, Border Patrol Agent, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Falfurrias, Texas, End of Watch: May 24, 2010.

SEAN D. KRUEGER, Lieutenant (0-3), U.S. Coast Guard, La Push, Washington, End of Watch: July 7, 2010.

ADAM C. HOKE, Aviation Maintenance Technician First Class (E-6), U.S. Coast Guard, La Push, Washington, End of Watch: July 7, 2010.

BRETT M. BANKS, Aviation Maintenance Technician Second Class (E-5), U.S. Coast Guard, La Push, Washington, End of Watch: July 7, 2010.

CHARLES F. COLLINS II, CBP Officer, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Anchorage, Alaska, End of Watch: August 15, 2010.

MICHAEL V. GALLAGHER, Border Patrol Agent, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Casa Grande, Arizona, End of Watch: September 2, 2010.

JOHN R. ZYKAS, CBP Officer, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, San Diego, California, End of Watch: September 8, 2010.

SHAUN M. LIN, Maritime Enforcement Specialist Third Class (E-4), U.S. Coast Guard, Portsmouth, Virginia, End of Watch: October 13, 2010.

BRIAN A. TERRY, Border Patrol Agent, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Naco Cochise, Arizona, End of Watch: December 15, 2010.

JAIME J. ZAPATA, Special Agent, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Mexico City, Mexico, End of Watch: February 15, 2011.

HECTOR R. CLARK, Border Patrol Agent, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Yuma, Arizona, End of Watch: May 12, 2011.

EDUARDO ROJAS, JR., Border Patrol Agent, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Yuma, Arizona, End of Watch: May 12, 2011.

DALE T. TAYLOR, Lieutenant Commander (O-4), U.S. Coast Guard, Point Clear, Alabama, End of Watch: February 28, 2012.

THOMAS J. CAMERON, Lieutenant Junior Grade (O-2), U.S. Coast Guard, Point Clear, Alabama, End of Watch: February 28, 2012.

FERNANDO JORGE, Aviation Survival Technician (E-7), U.S. Coast Guard, Point Clear, Alabama, End of Watch: February 28, 2012.

ANDREW W. KNIGHT, Avionics Electrical Technician (E-4), U.S. Coast Guard, Point Clear, Alabama, End of Watch: February 28, 2012.

JAMES A. HOPKINS, Electronics Technician (E-6), U.S. Coast Guard, Kodiak, Alaska, End of Watch: April 12, 2012.

RICHARD W. BELISLE, Civilian Employee (WG-8), Chief Boatswain's Mate (E-7), Retired, U.S. Coast Guard, Kodiak, Alaska, End of Watch: April 12, 2012.

LEOPOLDO CAVAZOS, JR., Border Patrol Agent, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Fort Hancock, Texas, End of Watch: July 6, 2012.

JAMES R. DOMINGUEZ, Border Patrol Agent, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Cline, Texas, End of Watch: July 19, 2012.

JEFFREY RAMIREZ, Border Patrol Agent, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Laredo, Texas, September 15, 2012.

NICHOLAS J. IVIE, Border Patrol Agent, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Bisbee, Arizona, October 2, 2012.

DAVID R. DELANEY, Border Patrol Agent, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Big Bend National Park, Texas, November 2, 2012.

TERRELL E. HORNE III, Senior Chief Boatswain's Mate (E-8), U.S. Coast Guard, Marina Del Ray, California, End of Watch: December 2, 2012.

## CELEBRATING THE CENTENNIAL OF THE CITY OF CARROLLTON, TEXAS

### HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 23, 2013*

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize and celebrate the centennial of the City of Carrollton, Texas, which sits fourteen miles north of downtown Dallas at the intersection of Collin, Dallas, and Denton counties. The rich history of Carrollton is a quintessential American story.

Long before it was the city that it is today, the region around Carrollton was home to Wichita natives as well as the French and Spanish who sought to claim east Texas. The

modern history of Carrollton began in the 1840s when Sam Houston, president of the Republic of Texas, made an agreement with the Peters Colony Company to offer free land to new settlers. The Larner, Myers, Nix, Witt, Lee, Rainwater, and Perry families were among the original founders who came to the area—some from Carrollton, Illinois, from which Carrollton, Texas, may have gotten its name. Families from England, including Jackson, Furneaux, Morgan, and Rowe also settled in the area.

In 1846, the first Baptist church was established in Carrollton and ten years later the Union Baptist Church opened the first community school. Small homes and businesses began to grow in this rural environment and in 1878 the railroad arrived, with the Dallas and Wichita line being the first of three that would eventually intersect and form a hub in the community. That same year, on May 16, Carrollton's first Post Office opened, giving the unincorporated town its name. Built on grain and gravel industries, Carrollton had a population of 150 by 1885 and the town square began to take shape in 1901 after land purchases by George and J.S. Myers.

The City of Carrollton was incorporated one hundred years ago, on June 14, 1913, by a vote of 52 to 23. The City Council was elected the next month and William Forest Vinson was elected as the first Mayor, though he actually declined to serve and the first mayorship was held by Junius Tribble "J.T." Rhoton. In the following decades, Carrollton would grow into a thriving and modern city. Yet a simple gazebo, built in 1921, would become the landmark and centerpiece of the town square. In the 1920s, a volunteer fire department was established and the police department followed by the 1940s. Bringing a distinct attitude to the area around that time was "Colonel" C.W. Josey, an oilman who bought expansive land in Carrollton on which he hosted annual rodeos as well as elaborate parties. Carrollton was also the first city in Dallas County to integrate its schools, in 1963.

Carrollton has truly blossomed into a prosperous and exemplary city. From a population of 1,610 in 1950, it has now grown to over 121,150 residents, with the most rapid growth occurring in the 1970s and 1980s. The city features thirty-five schools, two libraries, the Baylor Medical Center hospital which covers 36 specialties, two other long-term acute care hospitals, and over 1,200 acres of park land. True to the railroad heritage that first brought new life to Carrollton, the city is now connected to the DART commuter system. Landmarks today include the Plaza Theater and the A.W. Perry Homestead Museum. Carrollton's vibrant success is evident in its strong education system and quality of life. The city has been ranked twelfth in *Forbes* Magazine's "America's 25 Best Places to Move", as well as fifteenth in *MONEY* Magazine's "Best Places to Live" in 2008. Just this month, Carrollton was also named one of the top ten "Best Texas Cities for Young Families" by a financial website, based on its public education, affordability, and opportunity for growth.

I am proud to say that the Marchant family has been an important part of Carrollton's story. It was my privilege to serve on the city council for four years and then as Mayor from 1984 to 1986. Ronnie Marchant was a member of the city council for several years. The

present Mayor is Matthew Marchant, who also served several terms on the city council and as Mayor Pro Tempore. Nothing in those roles, however, can compare to the character and qualities that the people of Carrollton have brought to it for over a century and that will propel it into the future.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the 24th Congressional District of Texas, I ask all my distinguished colleagues to join me in recognizing the one hundredth anniversary of the incorporation of the City of Carrollton, Texas.

## HONORING MINNESOTA STATE REPRESENTATIVE KAREN CLARK

### HON. KEITH ELLISON

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 23, 2013*

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Minnesota State Representative Karen Clark. Representative Clark grew up on a small farm in southwest Minnesota. She moved to South Minneapolis in 1967 and was elected to the Minnesota House of Representatives in 1980. She is the longest-serving openly gay state legislator in the country.

Representative Clark has long worked for the civil rights of all Americans, including LGBT Americans. She led the effort to add sexual orientation to the categories protected by the Minnesota Human Rights Act of 1993. The law now bans discrimination based on sexual orientation in employment, housing, public services, public accommodations, education, credit, and business contracting. In addition, the law defines sexual orientation broadly to include gender identity, providing important protections for transgendered Minnesotans. Representative Clark has also sponsored successful legislative initiatives to strengthen enforcement of hate crime laws in Minnesota. Her efforts on behalf of LGBT Minnesotans have earned Representative Clark numerous awards, including the Minneapolis Commission on Human Rights' first Martin Luther King Award, the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force's Leadership Award for antiviolen legislation, and the International Network of Gay & Lesbian Officials' Founding Member Service Award.

Representative Clark's work for LGBT rights has culminated in the passage of the Minnesota Freedom to Marry bill that will legalize same-sex marriage in Minnesota. Representative Clark was the chief author of this historic legislation and helped shepherd it through the Minnesota House of Representatives, where it passed by a vote of 75 to 59 on May 9, 2013. In a public ceremony on May 14, 2013, Governor Mark Dayton signed the bill into law, legalizing same-sex marriage for all Minnesotans. For her decades-long fight for LGBT equality, the Obama Administration rightly honored Representative Clark as a Harvey Milk Champion of Change.

Representative Clark makes Minnesotans proud. I urge this Congress to recognize her extraordinary efforts on behalf of the rights and freedoms of all Minnesotans and Americans.

IN HONOR OF THE UNIVERSITY OF  
CENTRAL FLORIDA'S GOLDEN  
ANNIVERSARY

### HON. JOHN L. MICA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 23, 2013*

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the University of Central Florida on the occasion of its golden anniversary. Located in Florida's 7th Congressional District, UCF is one of America's great education institutions.

Over the past 50 years, UCF's campus has grown from what was once a commuter school with limited academic programs to today having nearly 60,000 undergraduate and graduate students and over 10,000 faculty and staff on 12 campuses spread across the vast footprint of central Florida. Through the tireless efforts of its first University President, Dr. Charles M. Millican to its current President Dr. John C. Hitt, UCF has become the second largest university in the United States. Today's student body is composed of some of the brightest minds from Florida, the Nation, and around the world while assembling some of the finest faculty and senior staff professionals in the country. Under the direction of Dr. Hitt, UCF has achieved high admission standards, dramatically increased research funding, built new state of the art facilities and established significant partnerships with major research institutions. The campus now features an on-campus stadium, indoor sports arena, increased and modern campus housing and the impressive development of the UCF College of Medicine at Lake Nona. UCF has been named one of the Nation's top 5 "up-and-coming" schools according to U.S. News and World Report while advancing in the annual overall best colleges rankings released each year.

UCF has become a national leader in research with an outstanding academic reputation. Its regional assets include a collaboration of military commands, advanced simulation research coupled with the strength of UCF's renowned Institute for Simulation and Training. Further boasting its commitment to high-tech research, UCF is home to CREOL, The College of Optics & Photonics, a world-renowned graduate college for optical science and engineering education. UCF is also nationally recognized as having the top hospitality management program in the country, residing on the Rosen College campus in the heart of Orlando's entertainment and tourist district.

I join my Florida colleagues and Members of Congress in extending congratulations to the University of Central Florida on reaching this important milestone. I have watched with pride the positive growth and impact of this great institution of higher learning. Central Florida, the State and Nation are richer for the investable contributions of its students, faculty and staff, and outstanding graduates. Looking back over these past 50 years with excitement for the next 50, Mr. Speaker, I would again like to extend my congratulations to UCF and join others in saying: Go Knights!

RECOGNIZING MICHELLE & GIL  
TRENUM AND THE 3RD ANNUAL  
TOM MCHALE MEMORIAL

### HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 23, 2013*

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Michelle and Gil Trenum on receiving the Sports Legacy Institute's, SLI, Legacy Award for their role in improving programs for concussion management in Prince William County, Virginia. I also commend SLI on the occasion of its 3rd Annual Tom McHale Memorial for its commitment to improving the prevention and treatment of concussions.

The Sports Legacy Institute is a non-profit organization that uses medical research, treatment, education and prevention to minimize the threat of concussions. Each year the Sports Legacy Institute sponsors the Tom McHale Memorial to benefit its efforts to lower the risks and end the tragic effects of brain trauma. Tom McHale was a collegiate and professional football player as well as a successful business owner. McHale tragically died at the age of 45 and later became the third former NFL player diagnosed with Chronic Traumatic Encephalopathy, CTE. CTE is a degenerative brain disease linked to a history of concussions and head injuries.

Michelle and Gil Trenum have championed concussion management and CTE education within the Prince William County Public Schools. The Trenums became advocates for more comprehensive concussion education after losing their own son, Austin, to the effects of multiple concussions and CTE. In 2010, Austin was a mature, vibrant, charismatic 17-year-old student at Brentsville District High School. Everyone who knew Austin says that he loved his family, his friends, and football. He played fullback and linebacker on his high school varsity football team. After Austin's untimely death in September of 2010, his parents donated his brain to Boston University, where doctors discovered injuries consistent with CTE.

Since then, Gil, a representative on the Prince William County School Board, along with his wife, Michelle, have pushed for urgent comprehensive changes to the parent and student concussion education laws. As a result of their advocacy, Prince William County Schools implemented concussion education policies an entire year earlier than originally required by the state. Concussion education in Prince William County includes a mandatory one-hour seminar for students trying out for sports and their parents. The policy also has strict return-to-play guidelines and thorough concussion education for school athletic trainers.

I commend the Trenums for transforming their grief into an opportunity to achieve systemic changes that will help local athletes, coaches, and parents make better decisions concerning concussion management.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in extending our appreciation to Michelle and Gil Trenum for making sports safer for our children. The Sports Legacy Institute chose deserving recipients for its Legacy Award. The Trenums have proven to be passionate and effective advocates on behalf of concussion prevention and treatment.

HONORING THE AMERICAN  
MUSLIM ALLIANCE OF FLORIDA

### HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 23, 2013*

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the American Muslim Alliance of Florida. This organization does excellent work for so many people around the State.

Foremost among those is its annual scholarship dinner for graduating high school seniors. Now in its sixth year, the scholarship program received applications from 138 students at 56 high schools across Florida, and will present ten winners with an award on June 1, 2013.

Past awardees have enrolled in some of America's most prestigious colleges and universities, as well as continued to excel in their chosen fields of study.

I am very proud of the Alliance, and am privileged to have so many of its members live in my Congressional district.

Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct pleasure to recognize the American Muslim Alliance, and express my most sincere gratitude for all that they do in our community. I also want to congratulate this year's winners, and wish them much success in their future endeavors.

### OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

### HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 23, 2013*

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$16,734,032,974,210.27. We've added \$6,107,155,925,297.19 to our debt in 4 years. This is \$6 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

### HONORING EVAN VOSS

### HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 23, 2013*

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I am privileged to interact with some of the brightest students in the 22nd Congressional District who serve on my Congressional Youth Advisory Council. I have gained much by listening to the high school students who are the future of this great nation. They provide important insight into the concerns of our younger constituents and hopefully get a better sense of the importance of being an active participant in the political process. Many of the students have written short essays on a variety of topics and I am pleased to share these with my House colleagues.

Evan Voss is a junior at Pearland High School in Brazoria County, Texas. His essay topic is: In your opinion, what role should government play in our lives?

## A SOCIAL CONTRACT

At the time when the U.S. government was created, the Framers of the Constitution generally believed that all men, though created equal, were naturally greedy and selfish, and that without proper leadership or guidance, the world would be wrought with anarchy and chaos. The political philosopher.

Thomas Hobbes best demonstrated the views of western government officials at the time when he wrote that in its natural state, mankind would instigate a “war of all against all”, where man would live forever in fear of death, a solitary, isolated, and animalistic life. This being said, the only way to protect mankind from itself was through social contract and the creation of governing

body. This body would protect its citizens and in return, its citizens would give up several of their natural rights. This was the original function of the federal government.

This original purpose of the government is the true purpose of the government, that is to say that to keep the social contract established between the governing and the governed valid, the federal government must protect its citizens. This desire to protect, however, has, in recent times, changed the government into an overbearing figure. It has been called “Big Brother” for a reason, and, although it does fulfill its end of the social contract, it is to the degradation of the people. Yes, the people agreed to sacrifice several of their natural liberties to be secure, but now, it seems that instead of pro-

tection from themselves, the citizenry of the United States require guard against the United States itself. The interference of the government in individual personal affairs has led to growing mistrust among the people towards the very thing that originally protected them.

To resolve this issue, the government must simply return to its foundation, its core. In doing so, the people will feel that the social contract conceived between themselves and their protector has been honored and is valid. Because, inevitably, a well liked and well perceived national government holds more power than that of one that is thought to be dishonest and a threat to the very lives it is obligated to protect.